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THE AMERICAN Legion

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Vol. 152, No. 1

For God and Country

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COVER: Global warming proponents insist the planet's atmosphere is heating up and that America must answer with a more efficient energy system. Others cite a lack of evidence that the phenomenon is human-induced. *Masterfile/Mike Dabel*



The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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Verse appropriate

Thanks for printing Micah 7:8 – “Rejoice not against me, O mine



enemy; when I fall, I shall arise” – on the cover of the November issue. In recent years, when laws and rulings have been enacted that plainly state

you can't say or do things in the name of God, it's good to see The American Legion motto “For God and Country” in the headlines. It's especially good during this tragic period in our nation's life.

— Charles E. Trump, Carlisle, Pa.

A welcome warning

Benjamin Netanyahu's “A Wake-Up Call From Hell” (November) should be on the desk of every member of Congress. Thanks for publishing it. Every American needs to hear this warning.

— Lew Fiero, Red Wing, Minn.

Don't target Arabs

The speech you published by former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu puts our military in harm's way by attempting to destroy the U.S.-Arab coalition created by President Bush. This article, with its bashing of Arabs and Palestinians, shows poor judgment by the magazine. Let's have articles by the head of an Arab state and a Palestinian to get both sides of the issue.

— Ronald F. Thomas, Middleton, Wis.

Terrifying but true

Benjamin Netanyahu's address to the House of Representatives' Government Reform Committee should be required reading for everyone in our government, from the lowliest clerk up to and including the president. It is a message and a warning to the American people from a man who knows his subject and is far more capable of analyzing the intentions of Islamic extremists than our FBI or CIA. Although terrifying in content, this speech is

true and must be accepted by every American citizen if our country is to survive.

— Duane A. Torvik, Grants Pass, Ore.

Tough to read

I read Benjamin Netanyahu's testimony “A Wake-Up Call From Hell.” It wasn't easy. His words referring to those who dare resist Israel's seizure of its ancient homeland describe Israel's own habits.

“They train, arm and indoctrinate their killers from within safe havens on territory provided by terrorist states,” he says. Israel is widely regarded as a terrorist state by much of the world, much of the world that American has paid little attention to and that we now find ourselves threatening and bombing. “Often these regimes provide the terrorists with intelligence, money and operational assistance,” he continues. Israel has provided intelligence, money and operating assistance to its agents sent out to assassinate people in other countries, people labeled as enemies because they insist the Palestinians fight to recover land they lost – the kind of people we usually call heroes.

Insulting the intelligence of members of the House of Representatives, Netanyahu – an Israeli-American whose arrogance got the better of him – says, “To understand the true dangers of Islamic militancy, we can compare it to

another ideology that sought world domination: communism.” That's Israel's tactic, instructing America how to behave in her role as a world leader.

American Legion veterans deserve a lot better than the advice of a man who has caused so much trouble for us in the Middle East.

— Lee Dinsmore, Elcho, Wis.

Mandatory service

In the November issue, Sen. Zell Miller, D-Ga., claims “the U.S. Marine Corps changed my life.” As a World War II Navy veteran, I agree that military service can benefit young men. A past commander of our post once complained to his buddies that he had a teen-age grandson who was absolutely worthless and would probably be in jail before he was 21. Somehow the grandson ended up in the 82nd Airborne and served during the Gulf War. He came home a changed man – an honorable, respectable, self-disciplined citizen of good character.

Former U.S. Ambassador Alan Keyes – who in my opinion was the best candidate for president in the last election – endorsed a period of mandatory national service for all able-bodied 18-year-old males. He suggested three months of boot camp followed by military service, the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Conservation Corp or some other government program with rigid discipline and good leadership.

Such an opportunity would provide young men with valuable training and a chance to show their gratitude for the many blessings of citizenship in this great nation provided to them by those who have gone before. A program like this could in a few years have a profound impact on our country's culture.

— Jack H. Stuart, Cloverdale, Calif.

Rights over peace

To the Neville Chamberlain “peace at any price” and Bertrand Russell “better red than dead” peaceniks who oppose retaliation against the Taliban, remember that we are endowed by our Creator “with certain inalienable rights, among these are life, liberty and

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

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**"They say there are no more heroes. They are wrong.
Every guy in my squad was a hero—and everything I know about honor,
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—Anonymous

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the pursuit of happiness." With the attacks of Sept. 11, anthrax and the murder of 15 Christians at worship in Pakistan, who can deny that the Taliban desires to take these rights not only from those in America, but also from people throughout the world?

— Jerry Mazenko, Garden Grove, Calif.

Need younger vets

After reading "Men of Honor" (November), I regained some pride. The article was well-written and described the unity and love for one another men share that seem to come only through war. However, I



also believe the article is a wake-up call when it speaks of men aged 78, 81 and 87. We need younger veterans in our ranks to carry on for those who have gone before – and to keep The American Legion alive and active.

— Robert H. Toms, Westminster, Md.

Try three volleys

I enjoyed Larry Bingham's article "Men of Honor." I have been involved with a similar group, the Memorial Rifles of American Legion District 11 in Virginia, for four years now. Our detail includes veterans from every branch of the service except the Coast Guard – we can't find any – and three women. In addition to funerals, we do a variety of programs for events such as Veterans Day.

The article mentioned a 21-gun salute for the deceased. It's actually a three-volley gun salute. A 21-gun salute is reserved for heads of state, such as the president. I usually correct the media and those writing programs for funerals and other events. A squad may have as few as five and as many as eight riflemen firing. In addition, not all rounds go off, so the number can vary considerably. To say three volleys is more accurate.

— R. Dean Decker, Richmond, Va.

Call for reform

We must do something about reforming campaign finance ("How Loud Does Money Talk?" October). As it is now, the rich and the powerful – with their money – choose the winners of primaries and general elections. We the people don't because we can't afford to in the way of political contributions. Ask the man on the street how much he's given to politicians and he'll likely laugh in your face. The "big guys" are the ones making contributions and eroding our democracy.

When businesses or the wealthy shell out large sums to politicians, you must know they consider it an investment that will have a good return. They don't give away money. The saying goes, "He who pays the piper calls the tune."

Last, this business of campaign contributions being freedom of speech is hokum. We're all supposed to have equal votes, and if a corporation – which isn't a person – can outspend me or anyone else to influence politicians and parties, it's getting more votes than us.

— Barry Q. White, Columbus, Ohio

Stop money flow

After carefully reading the pro and con sides of the campaign-finance reform issue, I see little difference between the two except magnitude. Anyone who gives any amount of money to an officeholder, whether elected or appointed, offers a bribe. Anyone holding office who accepts any amount of money accepts a bribe. Such situations should be handled under existing bribery laws.

The only fair system would be to forbid a person holding office from accepting any amount of money for any purpose or from any outside source. The officeholder should have to run for re-election on his own merits without any corrupting influence from outside. This would level the political playing field, upon which officeholders currently have a tremendous advantage. Candidates not holding office would be allowed to accept any amount of money from any source.

What would such a system be called? Term limits.

— Dan Flanigan, Richardson, Texas

All about control

The article "Who's the Boss?" (October) gave me a good feeling as a former teacher and principal. I was considered a disciplinarian and a traditionalist who let students know who was in charge – the teaching staff and the administration. For 26 years I didn't worry about students' equality. They were to respect their instructors, thereby learning what they needed to become successful in life. In no way were they considered on the same level as adults.

Happily, I report that we graduated 100 percent of students almost every year. The majority of them went on to post-secondary education and are doing extremely well. I don't believe any were scarred emotionally because they weren't treated as adults while being juveniles. The few students who became failures or less than successful just happened to have parents who let them do as they pleased.

— Warren D. Nelson, Ashby, Minn.

Buy American

Since Sept. 11, Americans have been showing their pride and loyalty by buying flags and other patriotic items. That's great, except for one small detail. China, a communist nation that hates the freedoms we enjoy, is making millions of American dollars from shipping most of these products. Personally, I'd rather show my patriotism by purchasing products made by Americans, even if they aren't red, white and blue. Doing such helps our economy by putting Americans back to work. Buy American. The job you save could be yours or your child's.

— Edward J. Decker, Perryville, Mo.

Stop foreign aid

I read the article "How to Fix the Spare-Parts Dilemma" (October). My solution is to use the millions of dollars spent by our country on food and medical supplies for "refugees" – aid that actually ends up in the hands of our enemies in Afghanistan and North Korea – on the desperately needed spare parts for our military's weapons and equipment.

— Jan Dunklau, Elizabethtown, Ky.

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When veterans join The American Legion, a promise is made to them. Their fight for affordable health care becomes our fight. Their struggle for improved benefits becomes our struggle. The welfare of their families becomes our concern and responsibility. The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion phrases it best by describing this commitment as "devotion to mutual helpfulness."

The National Emergency Fund continues to rank highly among Legion programs. Since its re-establishment in 1989, following Hurricane Hugo, the fund has provided more than \$3.5 million in financial assistance to Legion family members and posts.

When a tornado, flood, hurricane, earthquake or other natural disaster affects one of our own, the National Emergency Fund provides grants to Legionnaires and posts to help rebuild their communities, homes and lives. Funds are available within days through a department application-review process. The review assesses damages and determines grant amounts. The application is then forwarded to National Headquarters for approval.

However, the fund is limited. Considering that we annually grant about \$300,000 to members and posts, and the fund currently stands at \$780,000, it is clear that replenishing the National Emergency Fund must remain a priority. I encourage every department, every post and every Legionnaire to give from their hearts to keep this fund strong. It is realistic to expect that by Aug. 1, the fund will be \$500,000 richer – pushing us over the \$1 million mark.

Meeting a Need. I was employed for more than 30 years as a property insurance claims adjuster. During my career, I saw more than my fair share of hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes and floods. I spent many weeks, sometimes months, walking the grounds where people suffered catastrophic damage to their homes, businesses and personal property. If I learned anything from the experience, it is that even a little bit – given immediately – can go a long way in helping the victims of natural disasters.

Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members and posts may apply for temporary financial assistance available through the National Emergency Fund. Applicants must be members in good standing at the time of the disaster

and at application. Only one grant per household will be approved. Individuals are eligible for a maximum amount of \$1,500. Posts are eligible for a maximum amount of \$5,000. The funds are not meant to replace insurance compensation or to provide support for an extended time.

Since 1989, the Legion has made 3,913 grants from the fund, keeping numerous posts from closing and giving thousands of members a much-needed boost in recovery. In the aftermath of such disasters such as the San Francisco earthquake in 1989, Hurricanes Andrew and Iniki in 1992, the Midwest floods in 1993, the Los Angeles earthquake in 1994 and the North Carolina floods in 1999, The American Legion awarded thousands of dollars in aid.

A Continuous Challenge. The Legion's long-term goal is to have \$5 million in the National Emergency Fund. This amount would permit grants to be issued solely from the annual interest. Our short-term goal is to raise \$500,000 in the next nine months. I have asked each department to seek out donations based on its 2002 membership goal and a pro rata of the National Emergency Fund goal.

As an incentive, I will publicly recognize certain department commanders at the Legion's 2002 National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. Special recognition will be given to commanders in each of the six Big Twelve categories who achieve the highest percentage of their goal.

Each contributed dollar is used for the express purpose of rendering financial assistance to members and posts. Administrative costs for maintaining the fund come from existing budget areas.

If two natural disasters occurred tomorrow, the National Emergency Fund is available for aid. However, the fund would be seriously drained. Join me in making the fund a priority for your department, district, post, unit or squadron. With a concerted nationwide effort, we will elevate the fund to the dollar amount needed to ensure that we are able to help Legion family members and posts, regardless of the number of grant applications or disasters. Let us not miss the chance to help and give back to our own Legion family.

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-S. O'Brien, California

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New anti-terrorism measures

OPPOSE



Rep. Ron Paul
R-Texas

The shocking attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon remind us that the primary responsibility of the government is to protect the security and liberty of our nation's citizens. Therefore, we must do what we can to enhance the ability of law enforcement to prevent future terrorist attacks.

For example, the government can mandate better data sharing among federal agencies that deal with terrorism. The government also should restrict immigration from countries that sponsor terrorism.

The government can do much more under laws existing before Sept. 11 to fight terrorism. The combined annual budgets of the FBI, the CIA and various other agencies amount to more than \$30 billion. Perhaps Congress should consider redirecting some of the money spent on matters of lower priority to counterterrorism efforts.

Since the attacks, our officials have located and arrested hundreds of suspects, frozen millions of dollars in assets and received authority to launch a military attack against the ringleaders in Afghanistan. The war against terrorism started out satisfactorily without additional laws.

However, many of the new counter-terrorism measures are major infringements of the American people's constitutional rights. I am afraid our citizens stand to lose large parts of their liberty – maybe not today, but over time, as agencies grow more comfortable exercising their new powers.”

launch a military attack against the ringleaders in Afghanistan. The war against terrorism started out satisfactorily without additional laws.

However, many of the new counter-terrorism measures are major infringements of the American people's constitutional rights. I am afraid our citizens stand to lose large parts of their liberty – maybe not today, but over time, as agencies grow more comfortable exercising their new powers.

The most constitutionally offensive measures are not limited to terrorism, but apply to any criminal activity. Some of the new police powers granted to the government could be applied even to those engaging in peaceful protests against government policies. Freedom and security are not mutually incompatible; on the contrary, only a free society can ever be truly secure. Our goal must be to take liberties away from terrorists, not from American citizens.

Rep. Anthony Weiner
D-N.Y.

SUPPORT



The events of Sept. 11 demanded swift action on the part of Congress to ensure that the law enforcement and intelligence communities have the tools they need to wage the war on terrorism. At the same time, we must make sure that any new measures do not infringe on the liberties that make our country unique. Congress has achieved both goals.

The new anti-terrorism package is little more than a common-sense effort to bring law enforcement into the 21st century. In this era of cell phones, we allow for roving wiretaps to track terrorist suspects regardless of what phone they might use. Recognizing the Internet as a communication source, we expand the law that allows law enforcement to access phone records to include Internet traffic, with safeguards prohibiting access to the content of those e-mail communications. We seek to expand information sharing between agencies so government's left hand knows what the right is doing.

I personally pushed for language to enhance the tracking and monitoring of foreign students. Seeing as how we currently have no system for monitoring foreign students (the pilot of the plane that hit the Pentagon along with many other known terrorists entered the United States on student visas), this only seems logical.

In the case of all of these expanded powers, Congress took precautions to see that civil liberties are protected. In addition to rejecting outright some of the most controversial proposals by the Bush administration, all of the surveillance provisions are slated to expire in four years so Congress will have the opportunity to review them and ensure that they are not being abused.

Looking back on the McCarthy witch hunts and our internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II, history has taught us many valuable lessons on the dangers of overreacting to national-security threats. The anti-terrorism measures prove that we have learned our lessons well.

"I am afraid our citizens stand to lose large parts of their liberty – maybe not today, but over time, as agencies grow more comfortable exercising their new powers."

"The new anti-terrorism package is little more than a common-sense effort to bring law enforcement into the 21st century."

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THE Heat IS ON

*Administration,
corporations
ignoring problem*

BY RALPH NADER

Imagine a day far in the future when wind-energy technologies are able to produce 20 percent of America's electricity; automobiles get 60 miles to the gallon; and light bulbs last 10 times longer, use 75 percent less electricity and are just as bright as those used by the representatives and senators in Congress.

The truth is when it comes to energy technologies, the future has already arrived.

Today's technologies are sufficient to meet a significant percentage of our electricity needs using wind power. Toyota and Honda are selling hybrid automobiles that can go 60 miles on a gallon of gas. And almost any hardware store in the country stocks compact fluorescent light bulbs, which require a fraction of the electricity used by incandescent bulbs and more than pay for themselves. Replacing one traditional light bulb with a compact fluorescent bulb can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 500 pounds over the life of the bulb.

Now imagine that scientists are telling us the atmosphere is heating up and that we are likely to witness a rise in extreme weather

patterns, a sea-level rise that may flood coastal and low-lying areas and submerge entire island nations, a surge in human health problems due to higher temperatures, the accelerated spread of tropical diseases and a loss of important ecosystems.

Unfortunately, that day, too, has come. There is strong scientific consensus: global warming presents a clear and present danger to health, environment and economy.

The problem of global warming demands that the United States take immediate action to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases, foster a rapid switch to more energy-efficient technologies, dramatically step up investments in modern public transit, cut subsidies for fossil fuels and launch a program to, finally, harness the plentiful supply of solar energy.

It is now past time for the United States, the leading greenhouse gas-emitting nation, to take far-reaching steps toward the cleaner, more efficient economy that the global warming threat demands.

The Clinton administration did too little to address the global-warming problem. Unfortunately, the current Bush administration, barring a public outcry, is willing to derail even modest efforts designed to conserve energy and limit fossil-fuel emissions.

Federal policy over the past century has largely failed to promote an energy system based on safe, secure, economically affordable and envi-

⇒ see **Nader**, page 14





*Conservation
champion
Ralph Nader
squares off
against noted
astrophysicist
Sallie Baliunas on
global warming*

Masterfile/Bill Frymire

Studies lack hard evidence that warming is human-induced

BY SALLIE BALIUNAS

The decision to mount America's largest military invasion, the D-Day landing on the Normandy beaches, relied on a weather forecast. Meteorologists studied decades of weather maps from the North Atlantic in order to gain forecasting acumen. Then on June 4, 1944, 5,000 ships carrying 86,000 soldiers crushed against the waters of the English Channel, while 13,000 support aircraft held for an unfavorable June 4 weather forecast. But the June 5 forecasts indicated improved conditions, so Gen. Eisenhower ordered the D-Day invasion for the next day. If that forecast hadn't been accurate, the assault troops might never have reached Normandy's beaches. Thus, modern soldiers have come to know the importance of reliable weather forecasts for technological battlefields.

Today a scientifically accurate understanding of weather and climate is essential for economies built on technology. Human use of coal, oil, natural gas and other fossil fuels has increased the concentration of carbon dioxide in the air. The belief is that this added CO₂ is causing a significant warming of the climate.

The latest report of the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), using several computer simulations, forecasts a human-made global-warming trend between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees C by 2100, with a middle value of about 2.8 degrees C.

To prevent the warming, the Kyoto agreement asks America to drastically cut its CO₂ emissions and energy use by about 40 percent from today's consumption, which surely will yield a worldwide economic disaster. Yet are the forecasts of human-made global warming in the century ahead reliable? Will things turn out as badly as some say? And can cutting back fossil fuel use really reduce global warming?

The answer to the first question is "not very." The second, "not likely." The third, "not much, if anything at all." To know why, we need to look at the scientific record.

Natural Causes or Not? Yes, CO₂ is a greenhouse gas, which helps keep some of the sun's energy from returning to space. The IPCC forecast of the climate's response to this small amount of extra energy comes from the encoding of present ideas about climate into sophisticated computer simulations. These simulations say that the temperature near the surface and through the first five miles of air, the troposphere, should warm. Has that happened? Compared to the previous five centuries or so, the 20th

→see **Baliunas**, page 15

[Nader]ronmentally benign energy sources. The tax code, budget appropriations and regulatory processes overwhelmingly have been used to subsidize with taxpayer dollars dependence on fossil fuels and nuclear power. The result: increased sickness and premature deaths; depleted family budgets; acid-rain destruction of lakes, forests and crops; oil-spill contamination; polluted rivers and loss of aquatic species; and the long-term peril of climate change and radioactive waste dumps, not to mention a dependency on foreign energy supplies.

"If America had priorities other than satisfying the oil, gas, coal and nuclear industries, we could set ourselves on a sustainable-energy course."

Resistance and Indifference.

One might wonder why government officials, when presented with a host of practical solutions to address the problem of global warming, are inert.

Could the lack of action be the result of lethargy, stupidity, ineptitude, corruption or venality? Perhaps a Congress marinated in Political Action Committee campaign contributions is to blame. Or perhaps the current administration is too close to the fossil-fuel industries.

In April 2001, Greenpeace Executive Director John Passacantando wrote to the heads of the Fortune 100 corporations and asked them the following questions:

- Does your company support the ratification and entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol?

- Does your company support President Bush in his opposition to this protocol?

- Will your company support

or oppose the efforts of other countries to bring the Kyoto Protocol into force without the United States?

- Does your company accept the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as the scientific basis for action to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, particularly carbon-dioxide emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas?

The responses to these questions from the titans of industry were not the crisp, clear and decisive missives one might expect in corporate correspondence.

The ExxonMobil Corp. said, "Possible human-induced climate change is a long-term risk that we at ExxonMobil take very seriously."

Not to be outdone, General Motors replied, "We, as many, have raised concerns with the Kyoto Protocol, including its inadequate attention to the development and global dissemination of new technology."

General Electric noted that "global warming and the protocol present highly complex scientific, political and social questions about which there is a great deal of uncertainty and disagreement."

I think the responses from the other corporation officials are equally noncommittal. But they do provide a snapshot of corporate America's posture on one of the most significant environmental challenges of the coming century. That snapshot tells us that too many corporate executives oppose efforts to address the causes of global warming – antiquated, inefficient and damaging technologies – or are unwilling to use any of their political or financial capital to advance policies that benefit all the would-be consumers of the planet.

Options Abound. Several alternatives to such intransigent behavior and inaction exist. But it will require an aroused and engaged citizenry with focus and stamina to break the corporate logjam that has blocked the development of an energy-independence policy.

Three decades of detailed as-

essments, on-the-ground results, and research and development innovations in the energy-consuming devices used in our buildings, vehicles and industries undeniably show that energy efficiency and renewable-energy technologies are superior options for society. They offer a present and future path that is economically attractive, safe and secure from large-scale or long-term risks or threats to public health, future generations, the environment and national security.

In my opinion, embarking on that path requires overcoming the power of the oil, nuclear and other conventional fuel industries to which both the Republicans and Democrats are indentured. Under the thumb of the dirty-fuel industries, Congress and the executive branch have refused to adopt even the most modest, common-sense measures. For example, when the president's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology concluded in a 1997 report that doubling the Department of Energy's efficiency R&D funding would produce a 40-to-1 return on the investment for the nation, Congress responded by proposing deep cuts in the efficiency and renewables R&D budgets. Wasteful energy policies mean greater energy sales by energy companies.

The Clinton administration's nod to increased energy efficiency relied largely on corporate welfare. Rather than push for an increase in auto fuel-efficiency standards, the administration established the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles. PNGV is a \$1.5 billion subsidy program for the Big Three auto companies that has done nothing to improve auto fuel efficiency. But it has served as a convenient smoke-screen behind which the industry, freed from the need to competitively innovate, fended off new regulatory requirements for more efficient cars.

"Energy Innovations: A Prosperous Path to a Clean Environment," a joint study prepared by six of the nation's prominent energy and environmental research and advocacy groups, shows ➡-see **Nader**, page 16

What is the Kyoto Protocol?

The Kyoto Protocol to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted by consensus in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997. Although the United States signed the treaty on Nov. 12, 1998, it has not been forwarded to the U.S. Senate for ratification.

The Protocol mandates that:

- Industrialized countries must reduce human-generated carbon-dioxide emissions of six key greenhouse gases by at least 5 percent below 1990 levels within the commitment period 2008 to 2012. The six gases are to be combined in a "basket," with reductions in individual gases translated into "CO₂ equivalents" that are then added up to produce a single figure.
- Each country must show "demonstrable progress" toward meeting emissions targets by 2005.
- Actual emission reductions will be much larger than 5 percent. Compared with emission levels projected for the year 2000, the richest industrialized countries would be required to reduce their collective output by a larger per-

centage. For example, the United States would be targeted to reduce greenhouse gases by 7 percent below 1990 levels.

- Countries will have a certain degree of flexibility in how they make and measure their emission reductions.

- Countries will pursue emissions cuts in a wide range of economic sectors.

- Both developed and developing countries agree to take measures to limit emissions and promote adaptation to future climate-change impacts; submit information on their national climate-change programs and inventories; promote technology transfer; cooperate on scientific and technical research; and promote public awareness, education and training.

—Elissa Kaupisch

[Baliunas] century did show a warming trend, with a globally averaged surface-temperature rise of 0.5 C.

But look deeper, and the proof of human-induced warming disappears like so much hot air.

First, most of the warming occurred before 1940 – before 80 percent of the CO₂ from human activities was added to the air. This means that the early 20th century warming must be mostly natural.

Second, the climate record of the past 1,000 years suggests this temperature rise is hardly unique. New information about historical climate change obtained from trees, glaciers, ice cores, coral and the like indicate a widespread Medieval Warm Period from about 800 to 1200 A.D. Subsequently, temperatures dropped markedly, creating a Little Ice Age that persisted nearly to the 20th century. So the 20th century's warming seems largely a natural rebound from the cold spell.

But what about the past several decades, when the CO₂ content of the air rose most dramatically?

A critical problem for those claiming human-induced warming is that the computer climate simulations predict both surface temperatures and those of the lower troposphere should rise together. Moreover, the lower troposphere should warm the most.

For more than three decades, surface temperatures actually fell slightly before starting to rise

again in the late 1970s. Tropospheric temperatures showed no warming from the inception of measurements by balloon-borne instruments in 1957 until 1976. From 1976 to 1977, an upward shift occurred. But between 1979, after the advent of daily global-satellite measurements of tropospheric temperatures, and the present, neither satellite nor balloon data show a manmade warming trend.

Proponents of human-made global warming say soot from industries has acted as an aerosol to mask a larger warming trend. But that unravels because whereas CO₂ disperses globally, aerosols tend to stick more closely to where they are released. And the southern hemisphere, which is relatively free of aerosols, actually showed a cooling trend.

The point is that the best data collected from satellites and validated by balloons to test the hypothesis of a human-induced global warming from the release of CO₂ into the atmosphere shows no meaningful trend of increasing temperatures, even as the climate models exaggerated the warmth that ought to have occurred from a build-up in CO₂.

What's Wrong with Models? Climate models are too simplistic.

They must deal with more than 5 million variables, including many that are uncertain or unmeasured. For example, the models lack key

information about two major climate effects: water vapor and clouds. Little wonder that these models haven't reproduced the major features of present or past climate, such as the El Niño oscillations, that occur in two- to seven-year periods. They provide no proof that mankind is causing global warming to occur.

But what is causing surface temperatures to rise? A chart of surface temperatures going back more than 240 years shows a strong correlation between them and cycles of the sun's magnetism. Satellite measurements of the past two decades demonstrate the sun is a variable star, with its total energy output changing in step with periodic changes in its magnetism. This correlation suggests that changes in the sun's energy output of a few tenths of a percent over decades may explain many of the temperature changes over the centuries. Measurements made at Mount Wilson Observatory in Los Angeles of hundreds of other sun-like stars indicate the amounts of such changes are entirely possible.

Evidence of any substantial human-induced warming is, at best, weak. But wouldn't such warming, if it were going on, be dangerous? Why not take precautions and cut back our use of fossil fuels?

First, the warming is likely natural, and second, warming probably poses less of a threat than cooling would. People benefited from the Medieval Warm Period, with its equable climate conditions, compared to the subsequent deterioration during the Little Ice Age. Fig trees grew in Koln, Germany; vineyards were found in England; and Vikings sailed the seas to colonize Iceland, Greenland and possibly Newfoundland. After the onset of the Little Ice Age, growing seasons shortened, the North Sea became stormier, and life expectancy dropped back by about 10 years due to starvation and harsh weather conditions of a colder climate.

The 20th century's warming has extended growing seasons, too. And increased CO₂ also has helped increase crop

» see **Baliunas**, page 16

America has led the scientific study of global warming with approximately \$18 billion in research funding over the past decade. That research shows the threat of catastrophic warming is miniscule against the backdrop of natural change.

[Baliunas] yields to feed more people. No deleterious global climate effects can be identified with energy use. Instead, vast numbers of people have been raised from poverty by the economic growth that energy use produces.

By contrast, a rash cut-back in energy use, as required by the 1997 Kyoto Protocol could trigger a prolonged worldwide recession. Even economists from the Clinton administration now admit that the price tag for America would run to hundreds of billions of dollars annually. The rising energy prices needed to enforce conservation would especially hurt lower-income workers, who spend a greater proportion of their incomes on energy. And their sacrifice would accomplish

little. According to the computer models global-warming alarmists rely upon, temperatures, after implementing the Kyoto Protocol, would decline less than a few tenths Celsius by the year 2100 – beneath notice, given the bounds of natural climate change.

America has led the scientific study of global warming with ap-

proximately \$18 billion in research funding over the past decade. That research shows the threat of catastrophic warming is miniscule against the backdrop of natural change. The best thing now would be to improve the climate simulations and better pinpoint any human effect, while readying cost-effective measures in mitigation and adaptation.

As soldiers can understand, the nation needs a more reliable climate forecast before launching an assault on global warming that could swamp the economy in energy regulations from which the world might never recover. □

Sallie Baliunas is an astrophysicist and deputy director of Mount Wilson Observatory near Los Angeles.

[Nader] that a handful of simple and straightforward measures could produce a significant reduction in sulfur-dioxide emissions (the prime cause of acid rain) and nitrogen-oxide emissions (a key precursor of ground-level ozone and smog) as well as deep cuts in emissions of other damaging pollutants, including fine particles, toxic metals like mercury and hydrocarbons, and carbon dioxide emissions.

If America had priorities other than satisfying the oil, gas, coal and nuclear industries, we could set ourselves on a sustainable-energy course by:

- Ending fossil-fuel and nuclear corporate-welfare supports, including numerous special tax preferences.

- Launching a robust federal research-and-development program in sustainable renewable-energy sources, so that the practical promises of wind, solar and other forms of renewable energy are finally realized.

- Increasing long-delayed auto fuel-efficiency standards (at least to 45 miles per gallon for cars and 35 miles per gallon for light trucks, to be phased in over five years) during a transition

period to zero-emissions cars. American engineers are awaiting the “Go” signal.

- Adopting stronger efficiency standards for appliances and mandatory energy-performance building codes.

- Ensuring electricity policies which promote efficient use of electricity through a range of measures, including “net metering” requirements that companies pay market prices for electricity generated by consumers and passed back to the utility, and elimination of clean air exemptions for “grandfathered” fossil-fuel facilities.

- Establishing a well-funded employee transition-assistance fund and job-retraining program for displaced coal miners, which will be easily affordable with the savings from greater energy efficiency.

As a first step, the United States should ratify the Kyoto Protocol and then progress beyond its minimal standards. Among key measures required: We must move rapidly to zero-emissions standards for cars, even as we commit to creating a satisfactory public-transport system. We must require old “grandfathered” coal plants to meet modern pollution standards.

And we should place a moratorium on commercial logging in our national forests. All of these programs would likely help family pocketbooks and family health as well as reducing greenhouse gases – a win-win situation.

Also, Washington needs to follow other allied countries and end the ban on our farmers growing industrial hemp, used for fuel and paper. George Washington grew it, and former CIA director James Woolsey believes it is a national security “must” to reduce our reliance on imported oil.

Our country has more problems than it deserves and more solutions than it uses. It is time for the United States to stop letting ExxonMobil, Peabody Coal and Westinghouse shape our energy policy and for our misguided elected officials to start adopting an energy strategy based on clean renewable energy and conservation. Future generations will thank us for curbing our fossil-fuel and atomic appetites. □

Ralph Nader is a consumer advocate and was the Green Party candidate for president in 2000.

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*How did we
arrive at Sept. 11,
and where
are we headed?*

BY ALAN W. DOWD

It is rare that a turning point in history can be traced to a specific day, rarer still to a single moment. 8:48 a.m., Sept. 11, 2001, was such a moment – a nightmare-come-to-life that changed the world forever.

Within two hours of the twin attacks on New York and Washington, the World Trade Center towers fell from the Manhattan skyline, their majestic silhouettes reduced to rubble as a world gasped. Smoldering and flaring for more than three months, the ruins even now resemble a volcano. The Pentagon burned for only five days, but the gash in its side serves as a ready metaphor for the physical and psychological wounds inflicted not just on America's mighty military, but upon America itself.

As the debris continues to be cleared away from the mass grave that once was the World Trade Center, some grasp at history to make sense of the senseless, comparing Sept. 11 to other moments of man-made carnage – Oklahoma City, Pearl Harbor and Antietam are commonly cited. But the comparisons are woefully inadequate. Sept. 11 was one of those moments without precedent, parallel or equal. And as such, history can offer little solace. What history can teach us, however, is what lies ahead. And that is war – a long, complicated war.

The opening shots of this war – fired not by tanks or fighter-jets, but by mass-murderers disguised as vacationers, heroin-dealers and sadists masquerading as holy men, and anonymous assassins wielding envelopes laced with poison and plague – underscore just how complicated this first war of the 21st century will be. And terror's far-flung training grounds foreshadow just how long it will be.



The Fury and the Infamy

Vengeance is Not Victory. When America endured its first day of infamy 60 years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt responded to Japan's sneak attack with a promise: "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion," he thundered, "the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

Years would pass before America made good on that promise, before the shock and infamy of Pearl Harbor turned into the fury of Midway, Dresden, Normandy and Hiroshima. The same holds true today.

The early blows of our vengeance, like Doolittle's, may be swift, but victory will not be. Indeed, it cannot be, if this war is to

achieve what most Americans demand – an end to terrorism itself. As President George W. Bush explained, the war on terror "will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated." That will take years, if not decades.

Still, there are vast differences between World War II and what tomorrow's historians may call World War III. (Before scoffing at that prospect, consider the facts: Yet again, the world is splitting along the jagged fault lines of ideology and self-interest – on one side, democracies and would-be democracies; on the other, revisionists and revolutionaries. North America, Europe, Russia, India and Japan are all mobilizing for war – and so are the terrorists



Images of a smoldering New York City skyline are etched into America's memory much the same as fiery scenes from Pearl Harbor. *DOD/USCIB*

who live within their borders and the barbaric governments that spawned them.)

The enemy that attacked Pearl Harbor struck military targets, and he had the courage to show his face. When Doolittle struck back four months later, he didn't have to rely on intelligence estimates or circumstantial evidence to find his target. And although the nation's sons had been bloodied at Pearl Harbor, the homeland itself was untouched. We enjoy neither the pretense of a conventional war nor the illusion of invulnerability today. The first was ripped away from us when those four jetliners, symbols of our freedom and modernity, turned against our cities. The other disappeared moments later, in a flash of flame and a shower of shrapnel.

All of this should remind us that we're in uncharted territory. America itself is on the frontlines. The enemy has no flag to capture, no capital to occupy. And that is why we cannot expect this to end – at least not on our terms – after air strikes, desert combat, coalition-building or even the overthrow of Afghanistan's Taliban

regime. It will end only if we fight with the same ferocity as other generations of Americans scarred by war – and with the same audacity as our enemies.

The wartime words of Winston Churchill are instructive: America and her allies in the war on terror must “convince the enemy, not by words, but by deeds, that we have both the will and the means not only to go on indefinitely but to strike heavy and unexpected blows.”

New War, Old Mistakes. Even at this moment, American servicemen are landing those blows, throwing covert and overt counter-punches at a vast global network of terror. They are fighting in the air, at sea, on land, in cyberspace. And like their fathers and grandfathers, they are fighting these early campaigns without the tools and firepower they need.

As the Kosovo war revealed a scant two years ago, the military lacks the heavy lift capabilities to move large numbers of troops and equipment rapidly. The U.S. Army strained to transport just 24 Apache helicopters from Germany to Albania during the Kosovo campaign. When the Navy diverted carrier battle groups to the Mediterranean, the Pacific was left exposed. When the Air Force

needed more warplanes to support the campaign, they were yanked from duty over Iraq, putting Kuwait and Saudi Arabia at risk.

All of these contortions are being repeated in Operation Enduring Freedom, but on a much larger scale – and at much higher stakes. Indeed, U.S. forces are stretched so thin that the Pentagon had to ask NATO for a fleet of AWACS planes to monitor our own coastlines.

This is one of the tragic, if predictable consequences of neglecting the military. Almost 15 years ago, with the Cold War thawing, we shoved defense spending into a freefall. It spiraled from 6.1 percent of GDP in 1987 to 2.9 percent in 2000, prompting some observers to make ominous comparisons to the post-World War I military draw-down. In 1919, the country invested 16 percent of GDP to national defense. On the eve of war in 1940, the nation devoted a paltry 1.7 percent to defense. That was enough to protect America – or better said, to maintain the illusion of protection – until Dec. 7, 1941. Sudden death and destruction have a way of shattering such illusions.

Churchill's lament as war clouds gathered over Europe is now ours: “When I think of the immense combinations and resources which have been neglected or squandered,” he gaped, “I cannot believe that a parallel exists in the whole of history.” It does now.

Like Churchill's predecessors, we should have seen this coming. The terrorists have been waging this war far longer than a short-sighted America cares to admit. Only now has the battle been joined. Indeed, the attacks on Washington and New York were just an exclamation point to decades of terror.

As British historian Niall Ferguson observes, “Since 1968, there have been 500 hijackings around the world and more than 4,000 recorded terrorist bombings.” But terrorism's war on America crescendoed in the 1990s. In 1993, terrorists threw their first blows at the World Trade Center, killing six Ameri-

"America's friends finally began acting like friends, America's enemies finally were treated like enemies, and the American people finally awoke to the nightmare that always lurked just beyond their gaze."

cans and injuring 1,000. Later that year, Saudi expatriate Osama bin Laden first made news by taking credit for the ambush in Mogadishu, which claimed 17 U.S. soldiers. In 1996, a truck bomb exploded outside the U.S. military's Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. The blast claimed 19 airmen and injured 200 others. In 1998, terrorists bombed a pair of American embassies in East Africa, murdering 224 civilians and injuring more than 5,000. And in October 2000, terrorists used a rubber boat to blast a hole in the USS *Cole*, killing 17 sailors.

All of this occurred against a bloody backdrop of global terrorism. In fact, 2000 saw an 8-percent increase in terrorist attacks worldwide. According to the State Department, 21,000 people were killed or maimed by organized acts of terror between 1995 and 2000. The numbers for 2001 are not yet tallied, but we know this much: As a result of Sept. 11, thousands of Americans have been added to terrorism's death toll.

A Changed World. The United States may have sleepwalked through the past decade, but to paraphrase Yamamoto, the giant has awakened.

Perhaps for the first time in the history of terror, the carriers and breeding grounds of this scourge are finally within reach of justice and punishment. That's because the world profoundly changed on that awful Tuesday morning in September. America's friends finally began acting like friends, America's enemies finally were treated like enemies, and the American people finally awoke to the nightmare that always lurked just beyond their gaze.

NATO's rapid decision to stand with America, invoking its "all for one" clause for the first time in history, was an early sign that our allies grasped the gravity of this moment. Noting that more of his countrymen died in the World Trade Center massacre than in the Gulf War or Falklands War, British

Prime Minister Tony Blair promised to join America in destroying "the machinery of terror." If we fail, Blair warned, terror's next salvo could be a nuclear weapon.

Scores of other countries have since closed ranks, with new allies springing up in such unlikely places as Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

But perhaps nothing is more illustrative than Russia's actions of how much the world has changed. Remarkably, Moscow cleared its airspace to U.S. warplanes; allowed the former Soviet republics of Central Asia to open their territory to U.S. equipment and troops; increased military aid to the Northern Alliance, a pro-western group in Afghanistan; and conveniently conducted armored maneuvers on the Afghan border.

Wary cold warriors have asked why, but the answer is simple: As Dmitri Rogozin, chairman of the Russian Duma's international affairs committee, concluded, "Just as 60 years ago, Russia and the United States have a common enemy again."

At home, there is broad support for the anti-terror campaign, fueled by a sense that both blood and liberties will need to be shed before peace can be restored. However, in waging this war, America must maintain a delicate balance between freedom and security. Freedom cannot become the next casualty of the war on terror. As Ronald Reagan warned during another time of troubles, "Regardless of their humanitarian purpose, those who would sacrifice freedom for security have chosen a downward path leading to totalitarianism."

Bin Laden and his foot soldiers set out to destroy the American way of life, but not without our help. The fact that we are free is the very reason terrorists can so

easily attack us. And it's the major reason they want to attack us: They despise the free society built within America and the democratic society being built around the globe. To them, these symbolize not progress, but infection and imperialism.

Target List. We have every indication that the Bush administration is using the carnage of Sept. 11 as grounds to attack global terrorism at its roots, no matter where they reach. The tendrils and branches may be most visible in the lacerated soil of Afghanistan, but like a poison weed they wrap around the globe. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld recently revealed that bin Laden's al-Qaida network "has cells in 50 or 60 countries."

Even so, according to the State Department, the roots of terror run deepest in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Cuba, North Korea and Sudan.

Hamas, for example, has offices in the Syrian capital of Damascus. Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, controlled by Syria, is a training ground for Hezbollah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Palestinian Islamic Jihad – all covered in the blood of innocents.

In the lawless deserts of Sudan, Yemen and Somalia, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and al-Qaida run boot camps for hijackers, suicide bombers and mass-murderers. When they graduate, they scurry into the shanties of Gaza, the crevices of Europe and Russia, the festering underside of Malaysia and Indonesia, the dark corners of North America.

But some places offer more than just the right climate for terror. Barbaric and backward places exist where the heads of state are themselves terrorists. Tehran, Baghdad and Pyongyang top the list.

Philippine officials have identified North Korea as the prime arms supplier for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is waging a guerilla war in and around Manila.

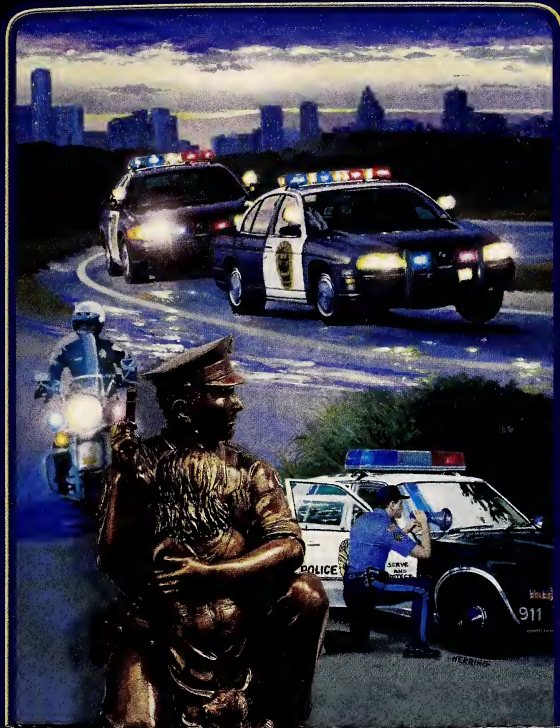
In its 2001 report on terror, the U.S. government called Iran "the

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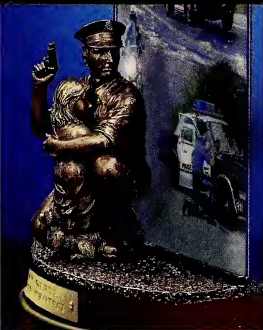
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*"... the Pentagon's war on terror
borrowed something from about
every U.S. military engagement
of the 20th century, and in
so doing resembles none of them."*

most active state sponsor of terrorism" on earth. For 22 years, Iranian-trained terrorists have destabilized U.S. allies from the Balkans to the Persian Gulf, shaking the very foundations of global order. Even so, Washington's response to the attacks of Sept. 11 has forced Tehran to rethink its old ways: As U.S. bombs began to fall on Afghanistan, Tehran sent a secret message to the White House promising to rescue any American military personnel who might land inside Iran. Time will tell if this is a momentary change or something more permanent.

The State Department reports that Iraq's Saddam Hussein began deploying terrorists into foreign cities in 2000, where they have plotted and carried out assassinations. Of course, that's just a small cog of Hussein's vast terror machine. In fact, the Israeli intelligence agency traces the Sept. 11 attacks to Baghdad, and Egyptian officials have drawn a triangle of terror connecting Iraqi agents with suicide bomber Mohamed Atta and last fall's anthrax blitz.

These countries will no longer be underestimated or overlooked. As the president declared in what could be called the Bush Doctrine, "We will pursue nations that provide aid or safe haven to terrorism. Every nation in every region now has a decision to make: Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists." If Afghanistan is any indication, those governments that make the wrong decisions are not long for this world.

The Virtue of Patience. Pentagon planners have no illusions about what will be required to enforce the Bush Doctrine. As Navy Secretary Gordon England dryly concluded, "This is not going to be a short program." But knowing where terror breeds is far easier than uprooting it, which is why the president's war council is taking pains to brace the nation for a long war.

Some have asked if this war will be like Kosovo or Desert Storm or Vietnam or World War

II. The answer is yes – and no. As we learned in the first 90 days, the Pentagon's war on terror borrowed something from about every U.S. military engagement of the 20th century, and in so doing resembles none of them.

As Bush explained, "Americans should not expect one battle, but a lengthy campaign unlike any other we have ever seen." We have witnessed surgical strikes that call to mind the operations against Belgrade and Baghdad, strategic bombing campaigns reminiscent of the latter days of Vietnam and multi-agency raids that borrow from the war on drugs. Yet to come are sieges and ferocious urban assaults that resemble Mogadishu; 21st-century Marshall Plans to prop up teetering allies; draining tests of will that recall the long, twilight struggle between communism and freedom; and awkward allied endeavors that invoke memories of Sicily or Kosovo.

Other battles we'll never see – battles fought by cyber-warriors who cripple civilian computer networks, unsavory foreign mercenaries who fight on the terrorists' terms and turf, and U.S. elite forces who kill at close range.

It appears that America has the stomach for such a campaign. Any nation that can withstand the body blows of Sept. 11 has a vast reservoir of resilience. What remains to be seen is whether the country has the attention span and patience for the war on terror. The latter-day kamikazes who attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon had plenty of both. Planning and preparation for the attacks may have taken three to five years.

The president says his administration is equal to the task. "If it takes one day, one month, one year or one decade," he promised in October, "we're patient

enough." But can a nation accustomed to fast food, FedEx and push-button wars match that patience? What will America do when the trail to terror grows cold, when we realize that a

war for our very way of life requires time? What will we say when our allies bleed, burn and buckle? And will the resolve still simmer when American bodies are dragged through Baghdad or Beirut, when Cairo or Kuwait City collapses, if Sept. 11 is repeated somewhere else?

Only the Beginning. Just as these questions are hard to answer, this war will be hard to fight. But it can be won. Indeed, what some view as America's greatest weakness – its distaste for war – will be its greatest asset in waging the war on terror.

As the eminent diplomat George Kennan explained during the Cold War, the American democracy is something like a dinosaur blithely frolicking in the mud: "He pays little attention to his environment; he is slow to wrath – in fact, you practically have to whack his tail off to make him aware that his interests are being disturbed. But once he grasps this, he lays about him with such blind determination that he not only destroys his adversary but largely wrecks his native habitat."

In other words, Americans hate war so much that once they are forced to fight it, they will do anything to end it on their terms. Our adversaries don't understand this. They don't understand that beneath the soft outer edges of democracy exists muscle and bone that, once flexed, can unleash an unspeakable fury. And even now, they don't understand what they set in motion on Sept. 11. The infamy has passed, but the fury has just begun. □

Alan W. Dowd is a frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.

Article design: Holly K. Soria

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Are you one of the millions of Americans suffering from gradual hearing loss? You say "What?" more often because it sounds to you like people are mumbling. Family members complain that you play the TV too loudly. You avoid conversations because you don't hear the higher tones in speech. It happens to almost everyone—you hear but don't understand.

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Fighting for Peanuts

First-class U.S. military men and women are living like second-class citizens.

BY JAMES V. CARROLL

Roslyn Shelton Riley knows the Army. There hasn't been a day in her life she's not held an Army ID card either as a child Army "brat," an active-duty Army nurse or as an Army spouse. The Army has been her lifelong family.

Riley has personal experience with such things as Army compensation, housing, working conditions, medical care and other pieces of the military quality-of-life puzzle. Times change, she says, and so do the puzzle pieces.

"The Army is different from the one I grew up in as a child and the one I entered 30 years ago," she told the House Subcommittee on Military Construction last year. "It has a greater percentage of married families, more single parents, more female soldiers and families who want a quality of life that is comparable to what they could achieve as civilians."

Indeed, the all-volunteer military today is predominately a young, married force with children. Currently 55 percent of the military is married, and 56 percent of the married population is between the ages of 22 and 29, says Joyce Wesel Raezer, National Military Family

Association associate director

for government relations. Studies show that military members tend to marry younger, have children younger and have larger families than their civilian peers.

Nearly 1 million children, or 73 percent of all military children, are younger than 11, and 40 percent are 5 years or younger. Approximately 6 percent of military members are single parents, ranging from a low of 3 percent of Marines to a high of almost 8 percent of Army members. Sixty-three percent of all spouses are in the labor force, including 87 percent of junior enlisted spouses E-1 to E-5, Raezer adds.

"Military members and their families want the nation to understand that the military family drives the retention decision," Raezer said. "The family's quality of life is a readiness requirement, and even a community as strong as the military community will fall apart if it is asked to do too much with too little for too long."

Because marriages have increased in today's military, the well-being and quality-of-life requirements for families have become more important and more demanding. Substandard or inadequate housing, low pay and poor working conditions are pandemic and affect military men and women and their families regardless of service branch. These conditions are important because they directly affect recruitment, retention, morale, the family unit and military readiness, the Department of Defense says.

George W. Bush made military quality of life an issue during his 2000 presidential campaign and it

remains a priority of his administration. In a visit last spring, President Bush told thousands of soldiers at Fort Stewart, Ga., that despite current conditions their lot would improve.

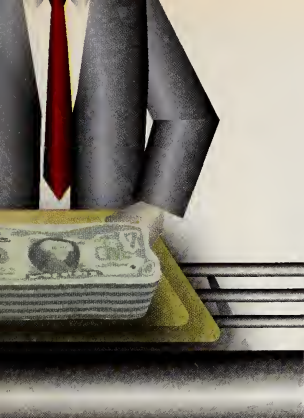
"These problems – from low pay to poor housing – reach across our military and the result is predictable," Bush said. "Frustration is up; morale, in some places, is difficult to sustain; recruitment is harder. This is not the way a great nation should reward courage and idealism. It's ungrateful, it's unwise and it is unacceptable." Help is on the way, he promised.

Insufficient pay and housing conditions are frequent complaints by military men and women. Even a cursory examination illuminates the depth and breadth of the problem, but fixes will not come quickly, nor cheaply.

Housing. Military professionals say overall adequacy and condition of military housing, both family and single-soldier units, lag far behind standards expected in the civilian marketplace.

"Over the last decade or so we have fallen behind – both in the construction and in the maintenance of all our existing housing facilities," Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley says. "Across the board, I would tell you that the housing we have is inadequate both in the amount and repair. Equally important, I would also tell you that our soldiers know that. When it comes to their well-being and the factors they consider when deciding to make the Army





a career, housing is as high or nearly as high on the list as pay."

Stateside, Tilley says decades-old barracks houses originally designed for two soldiers now hold three. Broken showers and backed-up sewers cause hygiene problems for barracks soldiers. Overseas, Tilley says he was shocked to see many of the same buildings still in use that had been considered old, dilapidated and outdated when he served there as an armor first sergeant in the late 1980s. Even more shocking was the obvious fact that little money has been spent on upkeep and renovation. Many quarters for single soldiers are substandard, with electrical, plumbing and heating problems. And off base, there is often no air conditioning, no closets, limited parking, no place for children to play, and the water may be unsafe to drink.

Living conditions are little better at some stations in Europe, Riley told the subcommittee. Families living on post cope with clogged sinks and backed up sewers that can't be repaired. Upon assignment to quarters, occupants find warped countertops and floors, mildewed shower walls and ceiling joints, and dirty, carelessly hung curtains.

But substandard housing is not unique to overseas military installations or the Army.

About 60 percent, or 180,000 units, of DoD housing inventory in the United States is substandard, says Randall A. Yim, deputy undersecretary of defense for installations. Fixing this problem using only traditional military construction money would take more than 30 years and cost as much as \$16 billion.

Approximately 37,200 of the military's substandard housing units belong to the Navy, says Duncan Holaday, the branch's deputy assistant secretary for installations and facilities. Using military construction alone, it would take \$4.5 billion to renovate or replace all of the Navy's inadequate homes.

More than 70 percent of the Army's family housing is substandard. Repair, renovation or replacement would cost more than \$6 billion, says Paul W. Johnson, the Army's deputy assistant secretary for installations and housing.

The Air Force has approximately 65,000 substandard or inadequate housing units, says Jimmy G. Dishner, deputy secretary for installations of the Air Force.

The condition and scarcity of on-base housing has forced many military families to face an economic dilemma: how to afford off-base quarters. "Sailors and their families living off base are spending on average 15 percent more than their basic allowance for housing to obtain adequate community quarters," Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James L. Herdt says.

Many single enlisted sailors have it worse. Shipboard surface sailors E-4 and below are expected to live aboard ship even while berthed in their homeports. They have little or

no privacy and precious little living space. A bunk and locker taking up an area of 20 square feet is home for nearly 25,000 enlisted sailors. "There's no doubt about it. Living aboard ship even when in homeport is a huge negative when it comes time to re-enlist," Herdt adds.

The military did not sink into this quagmire overnight. And the problem is not the Pentagon's alone. Congress also is culpable. Big-ticket weapons systems are popular reelection handouts to constituents back home. Higher pay and better living quarters for military men and women often do not strike the same chord. Weapons platforms may mean more jobs, but these state-of-the-art systems often siphon away money to improve the quality of life for military men and women and their families. So much so that military readiness is being threatened.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington point to the difficulties faced by the Bush administration, Congress and the Pentagon when it comes to doling out finite resources. Few would argue in time of crisis that the top priority should be defeating terrorist enemies. Military readiness relies on men and women being prepared mentally and physically to carry out their dangerous tasks at risk of life or limb.

In the short term, our fighting force is ready, says former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Henry H. Shelton. But future military readiness depends in part on improving the quality of life of America's military men and women and their families.

The Department of Defense recognizes the inadequacies, Yim says. DoD is aggressively pursuing an initiative to cut out-of-pocket housing expenses by 2005 at a cost of more than \$3 billion. DoD also is on track to correct the inadequate and substandard housing problems by 2010.

But the General Accounting Office is skeptical that DoD's approach – military construction, public-private venture projects and increased housing allowances – is the right course of action. Particularly troubling, GAO says, is the military's desire for a significant increase in the number of military housing units. A



Leaky plumbing in a Hunter Army Airfield maintenance building restroom goes unrepaired pending renovation.

perceived clamor by military members for additional on-base housing may simply be a result of deficiencies in housing allowance formulas used by DoD. According to GAO, 72 percent of military personnel say they prefer civilian housing if cost is not a factor. GAO concludes that reducing housing allowance disincentives would better satisfy military members and would likely increase the use of civilian housing.

While the military sorts out housing priorities, service members wait. Equitable allowance for civilian housing is at least five years away. Public-private partnerships will not be accomplished overnight. And renovation and construction of new military housing is not expected to be complete for another 10 years. "Family members' eyes light up when the topic of renovation arises," Riley told the subcommittee. "But frowns quickly replace the glow when the expected 2010 completion date is mentioned."

The Work Place. Many military men and women also face deplorable work conditions when they arrive at their duty stations. They are often forced to work in dilapidated buildings. Headquarters complexes are cramped. Roofs leak, runways and streets are crumbling, and rusted piers create safety hazards, say military leaders. There are approximately 400 major military bases across the country, and the Pentagon says 69 percent of those installations have significant deficiencies that hamper troops from carrying out their military missions. That's up from 60 percent in 2000. The military rates only 9 percent of its installations in good condition. It would take DoD nearly 200 years to replace all its facilities based on its annual \$3.9 billion construction budget.

Deteriorating facility conditions are spread across the military landscape. Roads at Newport Naval Station, R.I., crumble under the wheels of daily traffic. Many other Navy bases are also in decay, says



Sgt. Paul Walter returns clothing and equipment in a dark and dark Fort Stewart supply facility. A new 178,000-square-foot complex will replace 22 substandard supply buildings now in use.

Herdt. Even newer facilities are in disrepair, including submarine bases in Bangor, Wash., and Kings Bay, Ga. Little money is available for regular maintenance.

A shortage of ammunition shelters at some Marine bases requires around-the-clock sentries to protect more than half the Corps' ammunition, says Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps A. L. McMichael. Marine communications and electronics students at Twentynine Palms, Calif., split day and night classes aboard pier-side Navy ships because of limited classroom space. Some Marine buildings do not have heat in the winter or air conditioning in the summer, McMichael adds.

Soldiers go to work in converted barracks at Fort Stewart, Ga. Water at times is unfit to drink. Air conditioning continually breaks and boilers often fail in winter. Tiled floors containing asbestos are crumbling and computer and phone wires dangle from ceilings. Army-wide

there is a \$17.8 billion maintenance backlog.

Pay. As bad as living and working conditions in the military might be, few issues have greater impact on the daily lives of the armed forces than pay. DoD reports as many as 5,000 military enlisted families are eligible for food stamps and tens of thousands of enlisted personnel qualify for Women, Infants and Children assistance. Eleven pay caps in the past 15 years have taken a toll. Despite recent pay raises, military wages continue to lag behind the public sector. And the military knows it.

Shelton says the area in greatest need of additional defense spending is the military's most important resource: its uniformed members. To meet this need, Shelton, prior to his Sept. 30 retirement, urged Congress to "close the substantial gap between what we pay our men and women in uniform and what their

civilian counterparts with similar skills, training and education are earning." Low compensation is more than a morale problem, Shelton said. It strikes at the heart of recruitment, retention and ultimately at force readiness.

The military has been struggling the last few years to maintain recruitment quotas for a variety of reasons, including the prospect of low pay. This past year, service branches met or exceeded their annual recruitment goals, but retaining recruits is still a problem, says Air Force Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart, U.S. Space Command Commander in Chief.

"The challenge is retaining enlisted military men and women," Eberhart says. "Other people want them, too, and other people are willing to pay a lot more than we can. Civilian employers want workers who've received valuable technical training in the military—men and women who have experience under their belts."

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A GAO report last year to the House Subcommittee on Military Personnel echoed warnings by Shelton and Eberhart. The agency found that 51 percent of responding enlisted personnel blamed compensation as the leading reason for leaving the military.

"Personal finance is a critical factor with respect to mission effectiveness and has a direct impact on readiness," Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Frederick J. Finch says. "Pay and benefits are improving, and we are thankful for those improvements. But we can't expect to compete with the private sector if we don't reach some sort of compensation parity. We are training the exact kind of people corporate America is seeking. And believe me, corporate America has more to offer in regards to compensation."

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Vincent W. Patton III echoes Finch's testimony.

"My one-on-one conversations and 'all-hands' discussions have generated a significant amount of feedback on issues and concerns that today affect our entire Coast Guard work force," Patton says. "Coast Guard members feel factors such as housing, pay, family health care and workload are the most important issues affecting job performance and their decision whether to continue military service. These important issues have a direct impact on Coast Guard readiness."

Other Issues. Housing and pay may be the most prevalent quality-of-life issues on the minds of today's military men and women and their families, but others exist.

Military health care is often a hot topic. TRICARE problems such as billing, inadequate responses to inquiries, and often-limited opportunities to take advantage of benefit options affect all branches of the armed forces.

Because of the locations of most Coast Guard facilities, for instance, less than 50 percent of eligible Coast Guard families can reasonably use TRICARE Prime, the most sought-after option, with little or no out-of-pocket expense. Instead they are forced to rely on TRICARE Standard, the most expensive program



Spec. Mason T. Lowery examines mildew and mold on a heating and cooling vent in his Fort Stewart barracks room. Renovation is currently under way.

and may face a \$300 deductible each year. These families are often required to pay an additional 20 percent out-of-pocket cost share on charges higher than a defined allowable charge by TRICARE.

"Depending on where a member is stationed, these cost differences can be substantial," Patton says. "For a young third class petty officer with a spouse and child making just under \$15,000 per year of basic pay, it doesn't leave a lot of discretionary income."

Availability of education is another issue often factored into a service member's decision to stay or go.

More families are accepting or rejecting assignments, or even deciding to leave the military, based on perceptions about the quality of education their children will receive at prospective duty stations. Even when transferring to schools with the best reputations, military children often face hurdles in getting placed in the proper programs, getting involved in extracurricular activities, and transferring grades and credits for graduation. The increase in state accountability systems and high-stakes tests of varying standards can also make transferring from school to school difficult for military children.

Scholastic or athletic scholarships are often more difficult to obtain as a result of frequent moves. These circumstances do not go unnoticed by military parents, Raezer says.

Any discussion of military quality

of life would be incomplete without mentioning overall morale, including programs such as childcare, youth activities, fitness centers, recreational facilities, libraries and commissaries.

The Military Coalition, a national consortium of uniformed services and veterans organizations of more than 30 groups, testified last spring before a special oversight panel of the House Armed Services Committee and urged Congress not to overlook morale, welfare and recreation programs — the bedrock that supports other military quality-of-life issues. Joe Barnes, TMC director of legislative programs, said these programs provide a community focal point, involving families, retirees, survivors and unmarried service members. These activities are vital quality-of-life components for today's armed forces, he said, and they should not fall victim to budget cuts.

Family centers, military chaplains and base mental-health professionals help ease deployment transitions of military men and women. They provide financial counseling, information on accessing local social services, parenting classes, opportunities to learn about their new communities, as well as ways to volunteer to help others.

Additional services set up to support families when units deploy include counseling services, e-mail and video conferencing centers and special family activities.

More childcare and youth pro-



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grams are needed, Barnes says. These programs require more money to enable increased military family participation.

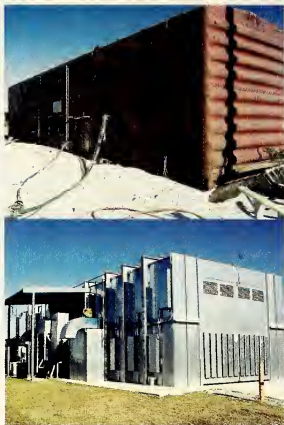
Providing tools for enrichment of the mind as well as the body is too important to be ignored. Continued upgrades of military libraries and recreation facilities are essential quality-of-life components for an educated and fit force, Barnes adds.

At the same time, the needs of single military men and women can't be overlooked. Programs such as the Army's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and the Navy's Single Sailor program should be expanded to provide access to all single military men and women, TMC stated. The BOSS program helps bring single soldiers into community decision-making through participation in the Army Family Action plan process and also helps educate single soldiers about their benefits through cooperation with commissary and exchange officials. The Navy's Single Sailor Program is designed to develop and improve social skills and meet the leisure needs of single enlisted sailors.

Show Me the Money. Sen. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., readily admits America's soldiers, sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and airmen are asked to do too much with too little, but he sees no quick fixes. A finite supply of money is available to heal all the ills facing the military, its men, women and families, Hutchinson says. The administration, DoD and Congress are busy developing priorities to address the most urgent quality-of-life needs.

Congress is working to fix inequitable Basic Allowance for Housing schedules, minimize housing shortages and replace substandard quarters, says Rep. David Hobson, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Military Construction Subcommittee. But the fixes will take time – 2005 to eliminate housing allowance inequities and 2010 to solve the housing standards and availability problems, Hobson says.

Fixing what *USA Today* calls our "military slums" may not be so easy. Congressional budget caps in recent years have strapped military maintenance operations in every service



Soldiers used an old boxcar for sandblasting operations until construction on a multimillion-dollar environmentally safe building recently ended at Fort Stewart.

branch. Rapid-fire deployment to places like Kosovo, Bosnia and the Middle East also force military leaders to use what maintenance and repair money might be available for more urgent matters, like training.

Finch told the House Subcommittee on Installations and Facilities that Air Force infrastructure and modernization is taking a back seat to near-term readiness. This strategy has resulted in a \$5 billion maintenance backlog at Air Force facilities. If current funding levels do not rise it would take the Air Force 200 years to catch up, Finch said.

Another factor siphoning maintenance dollars is surplus military bases. Congress has closed 97 bases since 1988, but the military says it still has 23 percent to 25 percent more buildings than it needs. Many congress members, however, appear to be reluctant to close more bases – especially if those bases are in their districts. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a vocal advocate of military reform, introduced legislation last spring to authorize additional rounds of base closures in 2003 and 2005. He says additional base closures could save \$20 billion by 2015 and approximately \$3 billion annually thereafter.

When it comes to military pay, our airmen, soldiers, Marines, sailors and Coast Guardsmen are

doing a little better. After 15 years of pay caps, raises are beginning to trickle down. Pay has risen some 8 percent to 9 percent the past two years and another raise in the range of 6 percent to 7 percent is expected this year. Wages for military men and women remain below that of their civilian counterparts, but the gap is closing, Hutchinson says.

Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., agrees progress is slow but steady.

"We cannot turn things around quickly. It will take some time," Johnson says. "We are advancing. As long as we make honest efforts to improve their conditions and to show our military men and women we care, I think they will understand things are not going to change overnight. What's important is that we continue to improve their working conditions and continue to work on higher compensation for them. It is a fairness issue, and we need to treat our protectors of our freedom fairly."

"We know people do not go into the military with pay as the motivating factor, and we may never be able to pay military men and women their worth considering the sacrifices they are asked to make. That does not excuse us, however, from our responsibility to provide them with the tools needed to carry out their missions and provide them with a quality of life they might enjoy were they civilians. That's not too much for them to ask."

At the end of the day, military men and women want no more or no less for their families than do their civilian counterparts, McMichael adds. "There are no microwave solutions for problems in life whether you are in or out of uniform. What's important is that there is a system in place to provide progress. We have such a system. Marines know we may never get everything we want, but we will never get less than we need." □

James V. Carroll is an assistant editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Photos by James V. Carroll

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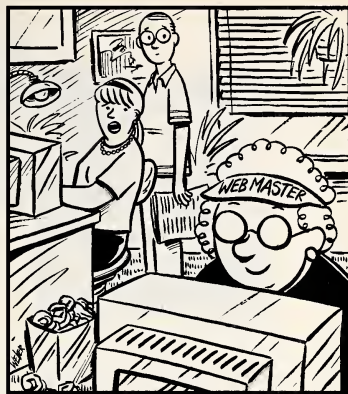
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The Allies *we left behind*

Vietnam veterans lead the fight to save an endangered Montagnard culture.

BY JEFF STOFFER

George Clark, a leather-skinned combat veteran who has fought in wars around the world, could not believe his tear-streaked eyes. Finally, after more than 30 years, he discovered the fate of Charley Dot Homok, one of 17 Montagnard (mountain-yard) aborigines he commanded during U.S. Special Forces missions in southeast Asia. "Charley was my radio operator," Clark said. "He was glued to me from December 1968 to April 1970. He saved my life dozens of times; he took a burst for me."

In the unlikely setting of a pic-

nic last spring in the North Carolina piedmont, these two warriors, men whose life stories are embroidered in battle scars and hang in the milky ball that used to be

ABOVE LEFT: Montagnard soldiers like Y Khip Nye, who fought alongside Green Berets in 1968, were quick studies in the ways of weapons. *courtesy George Clark*

BELOW: When he served in the U.S. Special Forces in Vietnam, George Clark commanded a reconnaissance platoon that included 17 Montagnards. "They didn't get half the credit they deserved for what they knew," said Clark, who said his life was saved numerous times by Yards. *Courtesy George Clark*



Homok's left eye, found each other again. No camouflage, no automatic weapons, no radios or grenades. They embraced, wept, laughed and spent the rest of the afternoon just like old times: glued together.

But the reunion did not bring closure – not at this strange picnic where little about Vietnam has healed. Clark and his fellow Green Beret veterans have long memories about the Montagnards, a culture whose freedom they are still fighting to save.

A Bitter Aftermath. For most Americans, the war in Vietnam ended with the fall of Saigon in 1975. For the Montagnards, that event was just another setback in a half-century of hell that continues today. In one of the war's grimmest consequences, the native tribesmen who fought with stealthy allegiance to America, were left to face the vengeance of their communist enemies alone. Poorly armed and sorely outnumbered, their choices were agonizing over the past quarter-century – acquiesce, escape or fight to almost-certain defeat – under the new regime.

"Nobody knew what to do," said Thomas Eban, a 59-year-old Montagnard who spent 14 years as a guerilla soldier, sealed off from the world, fighting, hiding, moving and waiting for support that never came. "In the mountains, we were safe," Eban said. "We tried diplomatic relations, and that did not work. We couldn't fight the North Vietnamese



Charley Dot Homok, left, and George Clark had not seen each other in more than 30 years before they reunited in North Carolina in May. They spent the day glued together. *Greg Stock*



Retired Col. David "Bulldog" Smith welcomes a pair of young Montagnard men to the United States during an annual STMP Memorial Day rendezvous in North Carolina. *Jeff Stoffer*

troops anymore. We had no weapons. No ammunition."

In 1986, Eban was among a lucky few Montagnard resistance fighters – survivors of the Vietnam War's "forgotten army" – who received asylum in the United States. Another group made it out in 1992. Since then, emigration of Montagnard refugees who qualify for freedom in the United States or another country under the U.N.'s Orderly Departure Program has been a hit-and-miss proposition, fraught with deceit, bribes and corruption, according to western humanitarians and Montagnards alike.

One American relief worker recalled a confrontation between an ODP-qualified Montagnard and a Vietnamese official in the highlands. The native asked about the \$8,000 fee he needed to raise to join his family in the United States. Officially, of course, no such fee is charged. But in reality, no one gets out without up to \$15,000 in cash. The relief worker said it was an especially awkward moment for the official. Bounty hunting for Montagnard refugees who have fled to Cambodia also reportedly pays well.

Faded for the Montagnards are dreams they once held for ethnic autonomy in their homelands, or even a voice in the national government. The culture's focus has shifted into the more urgent business of simply staying alive, if not in Vietnam, somewhere.

It's difficult to put accurate numbers on the problem, but scattered census figures, some generally accepted estimates and much anecdotal information indicate that this ancient culture is doomed. "Eighty-five percent of the Montagnard villages were de-

stroyed in the war," said Tommy Daniels, a Special Forces Vietnam War vet who has been fighting for Montagnards since the first group of refugees came to North Carolina in 1986. "If you work the numbers out, in 25 years they will be gone. Extinct."

Impassioned American veterans and humanitarian organizations alike describe the situation as a modern-day holocaust.

At least half the Montagnard population – calculated at more than 1.5 million in the 1960s – has been erased since U.S. troops pulled out. Vietnamese diplomats officially deny allegations of cultural leveling through religious persecution, bounty hunting, forced sterilization, military rule and other anti-humanitarian acts against ethnic minorities. Such acts would violate human-rights and free-emigration conditions for trade with the United States.

Human-rights violations are escalating, say Montagnard refugees now living in America, who number about 4,000. The few western relief workers who are permitted police-guarded access in the remote villages in Vietnam say the Montagnards are being driven into extinction by communist nationals who want to turn the highlands into coffee plantations. The native population has fallen to no more than 750,000, and it's dropping.

"It's all about punishment and revenge," said Kay Reibold, Director of the Vietnam Highlands Assistance Project for Lutheran Family Services in North Carolina. "It's a sinister psychological campaign to beat people's spirits down." Reibold, a former documentary filmmaker, has made 17 trips with various delegations to help provide assistance in the highlands since 1988. Two times, she said, medical supplies were confiscated at the airport and simply disappeared; on other occasions, supplies were taken away from villagers after she left.

U.S. investigations into the mistreatment of indigenous people have been described in official Vietnam government statements

as a "rude intervention in another country's internal affairs."

It's a powder keg in a remote part of a nation that – according to a Hong Kong-based survey – ranks as the most economically corrupt in Asia. In the central highlands, where the red scare came true, stories are rampant about government land takeovers and ODP-approved families getting accosted and separated at airports before leaving for the United States.

International news media reported in early 2001 that Vietnamese troops in tanks and helicopters were deployed to snuff out peaceful Montagnard demonstrations for religious freedom, property rights and against human-rights abuses. The demonstrations were reportedly sparked by the government's burning of Montagnard residences where Christian church services were held. After the Vietnam military rolled into the highlands to vanquish the natives, hundreds of Montagnards escaped into Cambodia, only to be hunted down and returned by troops and bounty hunters.

In one of the world's most geographically remote, poorly monitored and politically isolated places, people can disappear or turn up dead with few or no questions. And aside from a handful of religious organizations and some persistent veterans, most of the world shrugs and asks, in all innocence, "What's a Montagnard?"

Parallels with American Indians.

So-named by French missionaries who came to colonize Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in the late 19th century, Montagnards are the earliest known inhabitants of the Indochina Peninsula. Their roots in

what would become Vietnam can be traced at least to 200 B.C., and before that, by linguistic channels to Malayo-Polynesian and Mon-Khmer origins. Although they refer to themselves as Dega, most westerners know them by the French term for "mountain dwellers" be-

cause, by the time the French arrived, the Dega people had long since been driven from the fertile lowlands into scattered high-country villages. As many as 56 different ethnic divisions developed, each with faintly distinct territorial boundaries and, much like early

The Montagnards' Trail of Tears

BY MIKE BERGE

In 1966, Vietnamese II Corps commander Gen. Vinh Loc – a man described by Montagnards as "the wolf who ate the rabbit and wears its clothes" – invited U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge to Pleiku to commemorate a new program for the native people of the central highlands.

For the occasion, Gen. Vinh Loc forced the Minister for Ethnic Minorities, Paul Nur, a Montagnard, to wear a loincloth. Nur was well-educated and normally wore a suit. A buffalo was sacrificed. Vinh Loc directed Nur to pour the blood on the ambassador's expensive shoes. Lodge was agast, and American political support for the Montagnards soon dipped. The "wolf" had achieved his goal of portraying the Montagnards as *moi* – savages.

That experience was typical of the way in which Montagnards have been deceived and exploited through the years by various political regimes. Today, almost nothing has changed.

Just before the communist takeover in 1975, U.S. Embassy representatives met with the minister for ethnic minorities and staff to encourage the formation of a Montagnard-dominated resistance force to fight the communists. The Americans promised support, and the Montagnards continued to fight for 20 years. The support never materialized.

Ho Chi Minh had promised Montagnards autonomy if they fought on the side of the communists, but after the takeover, those who had done so were either sent back to villages or placed in meaningless positions

of contrived authority. Then the communist government stole ancestral Montagnard lands to plant coffee for export, leaving little space for them to grow food to feed their families.

After last year's peaceful demonstrations and Vietnam's draconian crackdown, thousands of Montagnards again fled to the jungle. Fewer than 1,000 reached Cambodia, and once again betrayal has been their fate. More than 200 Montagnards who thought they had reached sanctuary were sold back to the Vietnamese communists by Cambodian police, even though the American ambassador had received assurances from Cambodia's Interior Minister Sar Kheng that this wouldn't happen. Then a U.N. High Commission for Refugees official, on the advice of a Vietnamese communist secret police officer who had infiltrated one of the refugee camps, screened out more than 100 Montagnard Christians, and former soldiers, sending them back to prison or death in Vietnam. The UNHCR and the Cambodian government are negotiating for the Montagnards' return to communist Vietnam, either into jail cells or to the grave.

Is betrayal once again to be the fate of the Montagnards?

Mike Berge spent 11 years in Vietnam as a Foreign Service Officer, and worked closely with the Montagnards. Berge spent five as a prisoner of war. Upon his release in 1973, he returned as a volunteer to Vietnam and resumed his work with the Montagnards, which he continues to day from the United States.



Thomas Eban, a respected FULRO soldier in the guerilla war, took a job as a gas-station attendant when he came to the United States. He waited six years for his family to arrive. Jeff Staffer

American Indians, languages and traditions varied from tribe to tribe.

For centuries, Montagnard tribes existed in isolated solace. The big clash came in the late 19th century when traders, plantation owners, missionaries and Vietnamese nationals pressed into the mountains, looking for new land to occupy and resources to develop. "The new contact proved disruptive, giving rise to conflict between the Montagnard communities and the outsiders, who were looked on as unwelcome interlopers," according to a history of the culture produced by Montagnard Foundation, Inc., of Spartanburg, S.C. "Vietnamese merchants cheated them. Vietnamese and French officials abused them, and most importantly, speculators of both nationalities were intent on usurping their traditional land holdings."

The Montagnards fought back, but the French retaliated with an armed "pacification mission," according to the MFI history. The world wars diverted France until the late 1940s when Ho Chi Minh

launched his campaign to wrest Vietnam into communist control. Both sides battled for Montagnard allegiance, and the French won, issuing a federal ordinance - *Dominion de la Couronne* - that separated five Montagnard provinces from the rest of the country. It was a brief taste of autonomy muddled by a Vietnamese nationalist movement in 1951 and later destroyed altogether after the communist

Viet Minh victory. When that happened and Vietnam was divided in two, the *Domaine de la Couronne* was dissolved by South Vietnam President Ngo Dinh Diem.

Thousands of Vietnamese moved south in the late 1950s, into the highlands. The Montagnard culture - which at the time had barely begun using written language - firmly resisted the massive South Vietnamese resettlement.



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Montagnard tribesmen in traditional tunics perform music for visiting Air Force personnel in the central highlands during the Vietnam War. U.S. Air Force

tlement and its inevitable blending of the cultures. To fight it, Montagnard leaders established a political coalition of tribes, called Bajaraka, to negotiate again for autonomy. Bajaraka's top officials were summarily jailed.

Ho Chi Minh saw an opening. He promised the Montagnards political autonomy in the reunited communist Vietnam if the north could count on the natives' support. Deceived by political promises twice in a decade, the Montagnards did not know who to trust. That's when the U.S. Special Forces showed up.

A Special Relationship. Vietnam Special Forces veterans still affectionately call them "Yards" – the indigenous warriors they met, trained and befriended 40 years ago. Almost from the outset, Yards responded with fierce enthusiasm to advanced-weapons training and military advice from the elite soldiers. Yards were loyal, stoic and smart. The French had already trained many of them; some were even decorated soldiers with medals from the French Indochina War. And the Yards would ultimately prove essential for military agility in the dense highland jungles between Vietnam and Cambodia. "They needed us, and we needed them," Clark said.

Long before he retired from the Special Forces, Capt. David L. "Pappy" Hicks of Texas, was a covert-operations team leader in Southeast Asia. He met his first Yard in 1960. A Korean War veteran with American Indian lineage, he possessed a keen understanding of matriarchal native cultures like that of the Montagnards. From his own Ani-Tsalagi (Cherokee) roots, he understood tribal lifestyles.

Hicks carefully introduced him-

self. "The first thing I did was learn their culture, their language. It took three or four trips before they really learned who I was." They soon welcomed him and what he represented.

"They may have been illiterate, but were very intelligent, artistic, mechanical, and could learn quickly if you treated them with integrity," Hicks said. "I became known as a war leader. We were both of a warrior class. These people were fighting for the same things we would – family, community and country. When they understood we were of the same mind, they fell in with us, and we used the hell out of them."

"I think everyone got their lives saved at least a couple of times by the Yards," said Special Forces retiree Pete Buscetto of Atlanta, Ga., who led a 12-man reconnaissance team in 1968-69. All of his men were Yards.

Throughout a military career that stretched into the 1990s, Hicks continued to lobby Washington to help the Montagnards. He's still doing it. And when he walks through the crowded picnic grounds in his green beret and hand-stitched Montagnard tunic, honorary bracelets made especially for him jangle around his wrists. He still is their war leader.

The Forgotten Army. One role the Special Forces played in the highlands during the early 1960s was to improve relations between the Montagnards and the South Vietnamese government. That was a tall order. Although the tribal people had quickly established good relations with the American advisers, their patience and trust were thin with South Vietnam, which regarded the Dega as savages. The Montagnards wanted autonomy,

plain and simple. And in 1964, they demanded it with an uprising that drew international media exposure and swiftly led to concessions from Saigon.

"They negotiated a settlement for better representation," Daniels explained. "For the balance of the war, things really improved. The Montagnards were the largest of the minorities, and their lands were strategically significant. Whoever controlled the highlands controlled South Vietnam."

The uprising gave birth to the United Front for the Liberation of Oppressed Races (FULRO), a military union composed mainly of Montagnards. Soon, Montagnard courts were reinstated. Highland languages and cultures were taught in schools. A Ministry of Ethnic Minorities was established, headed by a Montagnard minister. Programs for granting land titles were drafted, with assistance from the United States. But this was 1965. This was Vietnam. The big war came. Bombers, choppers, rockets, tanks and artillery stormed across the highlands, and the Montagnards were right in the middle of it. Ironically, amid the chaos, the stoic aborigines attained unprecedented political stature in South Vietnam.

But all political progress ended in 1975. When Saigon fell, the Montagnard government and military both went into exile, at separate locations in Cambodia, and the general population in the highlands was left behind, with muted leadership. At a stadium in Phnom Penh, the Montagnard government leaders and staff were executed. More than 10 years passed before FULRO

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militia got the news. Montagnards who were not caught, killed or confined in refugee camps, continued to fight what one writer described as a "hit-and-run war" all the way into the early 1990s. Trained by the Special Forces, they would not go down easily.

The New Vietnam Protesters. At the picnic grounds in North Carolina, attended by more than 700 Dega and their supporters, Vietnam veteran John Freeman interrupted the annual business meeting of Save The Montagnard People, Inc., by shouting: "I always wanted to be an anti-war protester!" The irony was not lost on his fellow STMP members, many of whom fought in Vietnam. Last spring, Freeman joined hundreds of vets and expatriated Montagnards on an American Legion-supported bus tour to demonstrate at the U.S. Capitol, the U.N. Building and at the New York Stock Exchange. While the Washington rally drew limited attention, the Manhattan protest garnered coverage in *The New York Times*. Their story has since been told on The History Channel and often in the international media.

"Bracelet sales doubled" after all the coverage, reported Alice Clements, treasurer for STMP, which raises funds by selling authentic Montagnard bracelets on the Web at www.montagnards.org. The organization recently accepted a \$100,000 anonymous college scholarship donation that will serve as an endowment for Montagnard education. Supporters are also building a cultural center they call the "Longhouse Project" – a museum to showcase Dega culture and history.

"We are trying to make our stand known," said STMP President David "Bulldog" Smith, a retired Special Forces colonel who has made about a dozen trips to Vietnam to help the Montagnards since 1986. "It is a delicate situation."

The effort is carefully coordinated to avoid duplication of efforts.

■ Cedar Point is Smith's division, which travels to Vietnam and provides civil-engineering assist-



tance, food and other forms of relief for the impoverished residents of the highlands. "We are not advocating that every Montagnard have free passage to the United States," he said. "We go over there to apply humanitarian work. We dig wells and put in crops."

■ Daniels, a former STMP president, is in charge of Cambodia Corps, Inc., which works for the thousands of Montagnards who have fled to the remote provinces of Cambodia. "These provinces are no further advanced than the most remote areas of Vietnam in the 1960s," Daniels said. "Farming implements and tools are still smelted and hand-forged, just as they were in the Iron Age. Meals are cooked over open fires, even in the province capitals."

◆ STMP, Lutheran Family Services and Catholic Charities organizations in North Carolina help relocated Montagnards adjust to American life. The piedmont was pinpointed partly because of its proximity to Fort Bragg and its resident network of Special Forces veterans and for the lush environment comparable to the hill country of Southeast Asia. For new refugees, that's about where the familiarities end. The world of electricity, jobs, cars, fast food, subdivisions and television is a far cry from the malaria, leprosy, tigers, snakes and enemies they left behind. "It is like walking in a dream," one refugee in his mid-30s said during the picnic. He had been in the United States only about two weeks after spending nearly all of his life in the jungle.

In spring 2001, Montagnards demonstrated in Washington and New York to raise awareness about human-rights violations in Vietnam. *Kevin Schoonmaker*

Reibold said the Montagnards are punctual employees who do well in their jobs and, compared to other immigrants, stand out statistically for their short spans on public assistance. In North Carolina, they worship in churches of their own choosing, play authentic Montagnard music at nightclubs around Greensboro, drive mini vans, buy houses and raise children on their way to a new, better life. Politically and economically stronger, the U.S. Montagnards now dream of saving those still fighting oppression in Vietnam. It's not a gun war anymore. "We are a patient people," said Eban, a guerilla army leader who took a job pumping gas immediately after arriving in America. Six years passed before his wife and children were reunited with him.

"I have big emotions about this," said Y Hin Nie, who came to North Carolina with the '92 group after spending 17 years in the jungle. "I prayed to be saved. I believed that one day God would give us peace and freedom and to meet the Americans again. This peace just gave me a spot to work for my people. Montagnards saved American lives in the jungle. We came to America. This is their jungle, and (the S.F. veterans) took the responsibility to help us." □

Jeff Stoffer is managing editor of The American Legion Magazine.

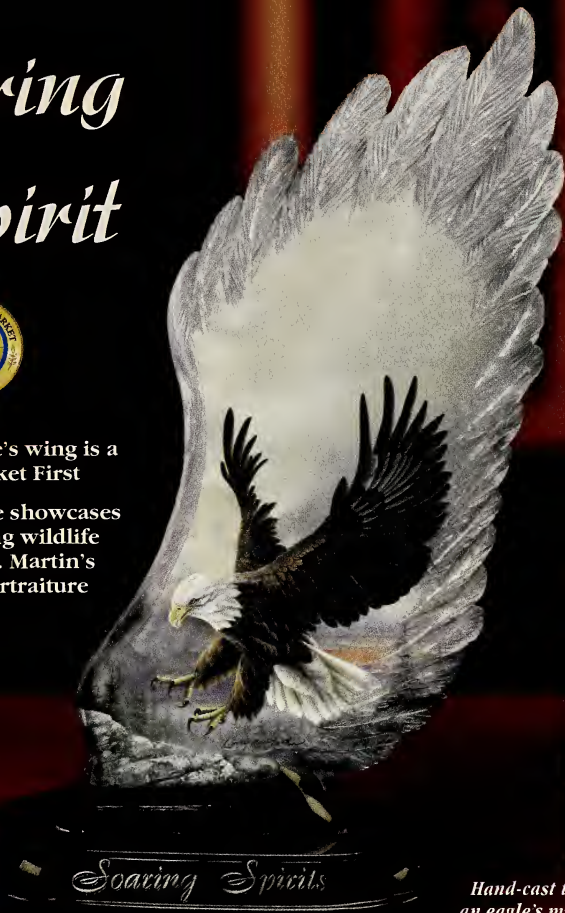
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Miracles on the Mountainside



Winter sports deliver unexpected rewards for disabled veterans.

BY ELISSA KAUPISCH
PHOTOS BY TOM STRATTMAN

You can almost feel the adrenaline pumping as athletes from across the nation converge on Snowmass Mountain near Aspen, Colo., to pit their strengths against the forces of nature and meet headlong the challenges of a lifetime.

After heeding their trainers' last-minute instructions, the athletes – paraplegics, quadriplegics, amputees, the visually impaired and those with spinal-cord injuries – urge their comrades on, hollering words of encouragement and recognition.

Participants and their family members, instructors and other volunteers light up at the sight of Sandy Trombetta, the fireball founder and director of the National Disabled Veterans Winter

Participants at the 2001 Winter Sports Clinic, outside Aspen Colo., rave about the feeling of freedom and adrenaline rush they experience skiing downhill.

Sports Clinic. Trombetta strolls through the crowds, hailing attendees with a thumbs-up and a hearty "Go for it!"

Mountain-sized problems melt away, as the towering pines on nearby ridges seem to echo: "Reach for the sky. Have courage. Overcome."

Camaraderie Over Competition.

When Trombetta of Grand Junction, Colo., started the clinic 15 years ago, he christened it "Miracles on the Mountainside" after a participant coined the phrase. But to last winter's 360 disabled athletes, the clinic represents much more than a miracle. They come to the slopes with a goal in mind but leave with unexpected rewards. One of them is camaraderie.

In most sporting events where one contestant is pitted against another, competition can be cutthroat and hostile. Not so at the Winter Sports Clinic, where camaraderie and common bonds run deep.

As veterans, these men and women share the honor of having served their country. As individuals with handicaps (surprisingly,

more than 100 are profoundly disabled), they encounter similar obstacles – physical, mental, emotional and social – on a daily basis. Relating on both levels forges



John Garth of Denver uses special poles called outriggers to help steer his bi-ski sled as his instructor skis behind and offers directions.

the athletes together and drives them to uplift and support one another.

"The camaraderie here is unbelievable," one veteran says. "I feel like I've known these folks all my life."

This camaraderie is demonstrated every time participants cheer for the success of others. The athletes not only encourage one another, but they also look forward to reuniting year after year and forming lasting friendships.

Opportunity, Not Disability.

In the fresh air of the majestic Rocky Mountains, disabilities are all but forgotten as these veterans – many of whom are Legionnaires – get a full six days of rigorous workouts from cross-country

and downhill skiing, rock climbing, sledge hockey, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and scuba diving.

Some, like John Leresé Jr., are hitting the slopes for the first time.

Leresé, a resident of Erie, Pa., and life member of The American Legion, won't allow his service-related spinal-cord injury to keep him from tackling snowshoeing, downhill and cross-country skiing and rock-climbing – sports that would challenge even the most able-bodied athlete.

"The first day I was here, I

"Mountain-sized problems melt away, as the towering pines on nearby ridges seem to echo: 'Reach for the sky. Have courage. Overcome.'"



William White of Hinsdale, Ill., displays the ribbon presented to him at the conclusion of the clinic. The clinic offers the opportunity for all participants to be winners, regardless of ability or experience.

went cross-country skiing for the first time in my life, and I only fell once. I was really impressed," Leresé says, beaming. "Yesterday, I learned to ski!"

Meanwhile, a few miles away, a triple amputee who was wounded in Vietnam by a land mine enjoys snowmobiling for the first time. "Where would I ever have had this opportunity had it not been for the Winter Sports Clinic?" he asks.

Many participants admit having become homebound prior to their life-changing experiences on the mountainside. "Being legally blind, I never thought I could ski

down a mountain – especially at age 75," Mayford "Louie" Robu, a second-year attendee, exclaims. "But to my amazement, I did it!"

Robu, a resident of Morning Sun, Iowa, and a member of Post 112, lost his sight to macular degeneration and eventually lost his freedom and independence. "If you have a disability, if you're blind or in a wheelchair, your life pretty much slows down, and you just can't get around like you used to," Robu explains. "When you get on these mountains, you can go fast, you can turn and do all sorts of movements you couldn't normally do. So even though you've lost that mobility in your everyday life, you gain it while you're here. It feels like freedom."

Confidence and Hope. The clinic is more than a week of fun for the athletes. The cost is months of intensive training prior to the event, but the results are worth the effort. Mastering skills many able-bodied people never achieve gives the athletes confidence and courage to overcome everyday societal barriers.

"When I first went up the mountain, I was hesitant to ski down," Leresé admits. "But desire pushed me forward." With further training and practice, his confidence flourished. "Participating in these sports makes me feel better about myself," he says. "Just coming down that hill has given me confidence I never had. It makes me feel I can conquer just about anything."

Third-timer Mike McEnaney, a Legionnaire from St. Joseph, Mo., who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1993, reports that



Todd Russell, a 31-year-old quadriplegic from Houston visits with spokeswoman and actress Bo Derek Russell, who served as a Navy medic in 1991, was paralyzed as a result of a motorcycle accident.

Sports clinic has varied sponsors

The Winter Sports Clinic is sponsored annually by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Disabled American Veterans. Last winter the clinic was hosted by the Grand Junction, Colo., VA Medical Center, VA's Rocky Mountain Network and Challenge Aspen, a nonprofit organization founded in 1992 to provide recreational experiences for individuals who have mental or physical disabilities. For registration and other information, contact Sharon Parks at (970) 248-5590, or write to her attention at Grand Junction VA Medical Center, 2121 North Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501 or e-mail to Sharon.parks@med.va.gov



Each participant has one to two instructors and a coach. Here, two instructors help fasten a skier into a bi-ski. The type of skis used are based on the participant's strength, agility, coordination and type of disability. Instructors, tethered behind, call out instructions to guide the skiers.

watching other athletes with similar or worse injuries overcome athletic challenges has had a profound impact on him.

"I've met people from all over the country with different levels of disability. Many have disabilities that are so much worse than my own, yet they are still skiing," McEnaney says. "This gives me hope that if I get worse, I can still ski and do other activities."

New Outlook, New Mission. The physical challenges of the sports force participants to refocus and redirect their thoughts. "When I'm skiing, I'm not thinking about my problems," Leresse admits.

Many athletes say they've actually found new purpose in life as a result of attending the clinic.

First-timer Kirby King, a Legionnaire from Corpus Christi, Texas, is an example. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1995, he is now a paraplegic who has been confined to a wheelchair and housebound since 1998. Worse, King is only 48 years old.

A psychologist by profession, he was forced to retire when the dis-

"The athletes not only uplift and encourage one another, but they also look forward to reuniting year after year and forming lasting friendships."

ease diminished his memory capacity. "I wasn't suicidal. I wasn't depressed. I wasn't waiting to die," King explains. "But I had resolved that I was expired, and there was nothing left. I had given up on doing things. I mostly stayed at home."

Coming to the Winter Sports Clinic transformed King. Skiing and rock climbing with other disabled vets, many in worse shape than he, changed his outlook on life and gave him a mission.

"I know there's something left for me to do. I've found my niche," he says with a smile as big as his heart. "This clinic has given me hope and shown me that I can be part of something that helps someone else. I can help disabled vets get out of the house instead of being like hermits. I know from



Amputee Julius Franklin of Portsmouth, Va. is new to the Winter Sports Clinic. He participated in downhill skiing, snowshoeing, scuba diving and snowmobiling.

experience, it takes someone who's 'been there, done that' to pull these veterans out. This is a turning point in my life. I know I'm going to make it now."

The Bigger Picture. Trombetta stops for a moment to greet a disabled skier, then continues tromping across the powdery white snow.

"Being outdoors like this elicits this amazing internal response in people," Trombetta says as he savors a breath of mountain air and gestures toward the highlands. "Being out in nature is all-curing. You get to realize how small you and your problems really are in the awesome majesty of nature. Even the blind people can sense it; they can feel it and smell it. They can sense the energy that's around them."

This energy keeps brave veterans coming back to the Winter Sports Clinic year after year. But more importantly, it's this same energy that sustains their lives — bringing new successes, new hope and new courage to tackle the challenges of everyday life. □

Elissa Kaupisch is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine

Article design: Doug Rollison



Double-amputee Dana Bowman competes in the timed downhill races. Each participant has two attempts to set his or her own record.

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Shooting for 100

Centenarians' secrets include activity, healthy diet and managing stress.

BY TARA PARKER-POPE

Centenarians remain the fastest growing demographic group in the country, with an estimated 70,000 Americans at or past the century mark. Even Hallmark now offers a half-dozen birthday cards aimed at the 100-year set.

Granted, many centenarians likely are blessed with super-charged genes that protect them from disease and allow them to stay healthy longer than most people. But those of us with average genes can still learn a lot from them.

The average life expectancy in the United States is 79.5 for women and 73.8 for men, according to 1998 figures by the National Center for Health Statistics. Researchers have found that those who beat the average by two decades or more often have a number of lifestyle patterns in common. Adopting those lifestyle habits could give you more years of better health.

For instance, two people who die at the age of 85 may both eventually succumb to cancer. But one of them may become ill at 75, enduring illness for the last 10 years of his life. The centenarian strategy would be to delay that illness until 85, buying an extra decade of good health, even though he doesn't live any longer than his ailing counterpart.

Play Your Cards Right. "Most of us have been dealt an average set of genes that are still remarkable," says Harvard assistant professor Tom Perls, director of the New England Centenarian Study and author of "Living to 100." "But we actually play those cards very poorly with bad health habits, bad diet, not exercising and smoking."

Centenarians eventually die too, of course, but they often don't face the cadre of health problems that for many people set in around the age of 70. They have significantly delayed or even escaped diseases normally associated with aging, such as Alzheimer's disease, cancer, stroke and heart disease.

Obesity and smoking are rare among centenarians. They also post low scores in the area of personality testing called "neuroticism." That means centenarians don't dwell on things or feel sorry for themselves,

and they manage stress well.

Perls has mined the secrets of the centenarians into a life-expectancy calculator found at www.livingto100.com. Some of the secrets of centenarians are obvious – eat well, stop smoking and exercise. Eat lots of vegetables and cut back on meat, dairy products and sweets. Take aspirin to lower heart disease risk, and stay out of the sun.

Some of the tips are surprising, though. Healthy

living means avoiding preserved and cured meats such as bacon, sausage, hot dogs, bologna and salami. Also avoid processed and charred meats, which increase cancer risk.

Centenarians drink a little but not a lot. Excessive alcohol damages the liver and causes accelerated aging, which in turn increases susceptibility to disease.

Say no to that cup of joe. Excessive coffee drinking is a sign of stress and can cause chronic inflammation of the stomach, increasing the risk for heart disease.

Increasing dietary fiber is a healthy idea and may decrease the likelihood of colon cancer.

Centenarians also enjoy frequent contact with extended family members. The theory is that living close to family minimizes the stress of daily living, and less stress translates into better health.

Last, centenarians don't spend their older years puttering around the house. Studying a second language or learning how to use a computer or play piano can actually help you build new brain capacity just like exercise builds muscle. The extra brainpower can help offset any natural losses that occur with aging. Mastering hobbies and staying active may take time, but time is another characteristic all centenarians have in common – at least 100 years worth.

Tara Parker-Pope writes a weekly health column for The Wall Street Journal and is the author of "Cigarettes: Anatomy of an Industry from Seed to Smoke."

Living Well is a section designed to provide general information to our readers. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.



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VA commits \$30 million to Parkinson's research

BY DR. JOHN R. FEUSSNER

Parkinson's disease has received a good deal of attention in the news media in recent years, thanks to its impact on the lives of celebrities such as Janet Reno, Michael J. Fox and Muhammad Ali. Of course, many others also suffer from the effects of Parkinson's disease – about 1.5 million Americans, with about 50,000 new cases diagnosed each year. And yearly, VA medical centers treat more than 20,000 veterans diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

A slowly progressive disorder that results from degeneration of nerve cells in part of the brain, Parkinson's causes tremors, slowness of movement, stiffness of limbs, and gait or balance problems. Patients with Parkinson's disease have extremely low levels of the brain chemical dopamine, although the cause of the shortage is unknown. Nerve cells use dopamine to send information to other nerve cells in various parts of the brain. The standard treatment for the disease, the medication L-dopa, replaces the lost dopamine. But over time the medicine's effectiveness decreases and side effects are more likely. Although treatment can alleviate the symptoms, no cure is in sight for this debilitating degenerative disease.

New Treatments. VA has a significant record of achievement in Parkinson's disease care and research. In recent years, VA has established an alliance with the National Parkinson Foundation and pledged to the House Veterans Affairs Committee that it would aggressively confront the disease. Perhaps the most notable evidence that this commitment is being met are six new centers that have intensified the effort to improve

Parkinson's disease care. The new Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers will combine three of VA's missions: outstanding clinical care, medical education and research.



The centers – located in Houston; Philadelphia; Portland, Ore.; Richmond, Va.; San Francisco; and West Los Angeles – operate as a national consortium. Each conducts research covering basic biomedicine, rehabilitation, health-care delivery and treatment trials. The centers will foster new approaches to studying Parkinson's disease.

They also will participate in a landmark clinical treatment trial that will assess the effectiveness of implanted deep-brain electrical stimulators for reducing the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. This important study, to involve 300 patients over two years, will be a vital step in determining the best surgical treatment for patients with Parkinson's disease who are not responding well to medical therapy. It will be the largest, most definitive trial in the world of these surgical approaches, and it will offer new treatment options for veteran patients for whom medication

alone is no longer effective.

The Food and Drug Administration has approved deep brain stimulation (DBS) as a treatment for Parkinson's. DBS involves the implantation of tiny electrodes into specific areas of the brain to provide stimulation to replace the activity that would have come from the lost nerve cells.

VA Priority. VA has committed more than \$30 million to the special centers and clinical treatment trials over the next four years. The centers will attract additional support as they develop and expand their research programs.

Of course, our research efforts in Parkinson's disease extend beyond the centers. For example, the VA medical centers in Baltimore, Bedford, Mass., and Denver are taking novel approaches to studying Parkinson's disease with support from our Medical Research Service's Research Enhancement Award Program. VA scientists at other medical centers across the country are studying questions ranging from the most basic aspects of cellular biology to development of new drug treatments. In the past five years, VA has increased nearly fourfold its funding for research on Parkinson's disease and similar degenerative disorders of the brain.

This broad, sustained commitment is necessary if VA is to remain at the forefront of research into neurodegenerative disorders. Bold and innovative approaches are the best way to ensure that our veterans with Parkinson's disease have the opportunity to receive improved treatments for this devastating disorder. The entire nation will benefit from VA's leadership in this area.

John R. Feussner, M.D., M.P.H., is the chief research and development officer of the Veterans Health Administration.

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Businessman Rob Stiff examines dog tags for sale in a Saigon market. He and his business associate, Jim Gain, recently launched a campaign of returning dog tags to Vietnam veterans or their surviving family members.

Courtesy Jim Gain

Dog tags fill void for Vietnam vets' families

Orlando, Fla., businessmen Rob Stiff and Jim Gain are on a mission to return lost dog tags to Vietnam veterans or their surviving family members. Their task began rather innocently when the men traveled to Vietnam on a business venture last year and witnessed vendors selling dog tags of American servicemen as souvenirs in a back-alley market in Ho Chi Minh City.

Stiff and Gain were so sickened by their discovery that they returned to Vietnam four months later to buy them up. Days of scouring Ho Chi Minh City and sorting through thousands of tags – some printed in Vietnamese, others destroyed or illegible – turned up 620 tags. The total cost of purchasing them was \$180. Some cost less than 14 cents each.

Upon returning to America, the two men launched a campaign to return the lost dog tags

to their rightful owners' families. They discovered that some of the soldiers were still living and had either lost their tags or had them taken away by the Viet Cong. A dozen tags matched names listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington.

One of the first names matched was Marine Lance Cpl. Allan George Decker. In a special Independence Day ceremony at the cemetery where Decker was buried in 1968, Stiff and Gain presented the fallen soldier's dog tags to his mother, Ruth Decker of Punta Gorda, Fla. Receiving the memento belonging to her son added a special meaning to the holiday because July 4 also was her birthday.

Stiff and Gain use a Web site to match the remaining dog tags with Vietnam veterans or surviving family members. For more information, visit the Web site at www.founddogtags.com.

Legion outlines plans for troop support

Because of recent mail-related anthrax attacks, the Department of Defense has placed moratoriums on the "Any Servicemember" mail program as well as "Operation Dear Abby," a 17-year-old morale booster for servicemembers overseas. The increased manpower required to ensure safe mail handling, coupled with the increased volume of mail that letter-writing campaigns generate, would exceed capabilities. DoD officials are working on alternatives to those programs.

The American Legion suggests various ways for Legionnaires to show support for servicemembers:

- Promote The American Legion Family Support Network, which serves troops and their families, by distributing information provided in the program's free media kits and raising awareness of the toll-free number, (800) 504-4098, for additional information. An FSN coordinator should be named at every level of Legion leadership.
- Donate blood at the nearest blood collection center or develop a list of future donors.
- Distribute Blue Star Service Banners to area families who have relatives on active duty in the armed forces.
- Reach out to nearby military bases, recruiters and reservists. Invite servicemembers to speak at local events. Brief them on The American Legion Family Support Network.

The Department of Defense suggests several ways for the general public to show its support. Encourage citizens in your community to:

- Visit a VA hospital or nursing home.
- Volunteer in the local community to help make up for servicemembers who normally would volunteer but are now deployed. Many coach children's teams, feed the homeless and aid their communities in a variety of other ways.
- Fly the U.S. Flag proudly.
- Donate to The American Legion Sept. 11 Memorial Scholarship Fund and military relief societies.
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Chapel finds new home

After 12 years of effort by Legionnaires, the Chapel of Four Chaplains recently acquired a new home in Pennsylvania. Its historic location – the Philadelphia Naval Business Center, 1201 Constitution Ave. – is connected in tradition to the military and dear to the hearts of veterans.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains is a nonprofit organization established to encourage cooperation and selfless service among people. It does not purport a particular theology or

doctrine but rather is a symbol of strength found in unity with one another and with God. The inspiration for the chapel comes from the courageous acts of the four Army chaplains who were serving aboard the USAT *Dorchester* when it was hit by an enemy torpedo and sank in the North Atlantic on Feb. 3, 1943.

Kimberly Pierce, executive director of the Chapel of Four Chaplains, says the chapel at the new location was built in 1942 and is typical of World War II military chapels. "It has beautiful stained-glass windows, stately pillars and brass chandeliers," Pierce said. "We maintained its historic appearance."

However, because of its age, the chapel was in dire need of repair – everything from plumbing and wiring to carpet, heating and air conditioning. Renovations were recently completed. Negotiations have begun to acquire additional land for the museum, hall and office space. The museum will house the famous revolving altar, *Dorchester* artifacts and memorabilia, and the history of the ship.

A dedication ceremony was conducted at the chapel Nov. 11. For visitors' information, contact Kimberly Pierce at (215) 218-1943.



The Chapel of Four Chaplains recently acquired a new home in Philadelphia. The building, which maintains its historical appearance, has military significance to Legionnaires.



And now... the rest of the story

In a ceremony Nov. 8 at the Indiana World War Memorial in Indianapolis, 105-year-old World War I veteran Gustave "Gus" Streeter received the Purple Heart award he earned 83 years earlier. As Streeter was wheeled onstage in John J. Pershing Auditorium, an audience of nearly 300 people gave Streeter several standing ovations and rounds of applause. American Legion National Adjutant Robert Spanogle emceed the ceremony. Following the presentation of the Purple Heart medal by Maj. Gen. George Buskirk, adjutant general of the Indiana National Guard, National Commander Richard J. Santos presented Streeter with the Purple Heart citation.

Representatives from the state of Indiana and the city of Indianapolis presented Streeter with proclamations naming Nov. 8, 2001, "Gus Streeter Day." U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., presented Streeter with a U.S. Flag that flew over the Capitol in the veteran's honor. James V. Carroll

Sept. 11 scholarship aids victims' children

The American Legion Sept. 11 Memorial Scholarship was established by the National Executive Committee at its October meetings in Indianapolis, honoring those who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in Washington and New York City. The program will help the families of military personnel killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, by providing college scholarships for their children.

Figures from the Department of Defense reveal that on average, in peacetime alone, 2,000 service personnel die each year in training

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accidents. As a result, families need financial assistance.

"We know that meeting the cost of a college education can be difficult for the average household, but it is a major finan-

cial burden for one-parent families," National Commander Richard J. Santos said.

No large pool of money is at hand, so efforts are under way to encourage contributions from Legion family members, corporations and individuals. Small contributions have already been received, but more are needed. A goal of \$20 million has been set to establish a trust fund.

Information about the scholarship is being distributed by National Headquarters and fundraising initiatives will begin soon.

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SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING:
Cigarette Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide

YOU MUST BE OVER 21 YEARS OF AGE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP. AND, UTILIZE MASTERCARD OR VISA.

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Fine grade freshly harvested, cut, trimmed, and packed for freshness this full flavored tobacco has all the taste of the big name brand. From the very first cigarette you can enjoy a truly great smooth taste reminiscent of your current brand. And, you are the sole judge.

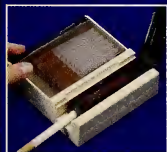
COUNT YOUR SAVINGS!

Regular Price With TAX	Savings Per Year		
	1 Pack	1 1/2 Packs	2 Packs
\$2.50	\$668	\$1,002	\$1,336
\$3.00	\$814	\$1,221	\$1,625
\$3.50	\$1,033	\$1,550	\$2,066
\$4.00	\$1,215	\$1,822	\$2,430
What Next?			
\$5.00?	\$1,580	\$2,370	\$3,160

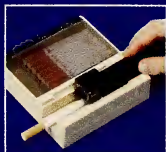
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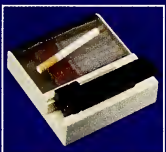
1. Place filter tip paper tube over nozzle with gentle twisting motion.



2. Lift chamber compartment lid. Fill chamber with just a pinch of tobacco. Make sure chamber is evenly filled. Do not over pack.



3. Close chamber lid. Holding lid slide right, then left, for a perfectly packed cigarette in seconds.



4. Bingo! You're done and ready for a great smoke. And, count the savings up fast.

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YES! Please rush me the Complete Smokers Warehouse Club package to make 30 packs (3 cartons) of Premier quality cigarettes. This will include 600 filter tips and the finest quality Virginia premium tobacco, PLUS the FREE DeLuxe Cigarette Machine. (Retail value of \$25.00. One free machine per household.) AL280

CHECK YOUR CHOICE CAREFULLY:

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☐ Menthol Tobacco, Regular Filter ☐ Menthol Tobacco, Light Filter

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How to use your National Reunion Registry

The National Reunion Registry handles all reunion information services for *The American Legion Magazine*. NRR, a division of Military Information Enterprises, Inc., is a private organization that provides information about reunions, helps veterans locate old buddies and offers other special benefits to veterans and their families.

NRR maintains contact information on thousands of reunions and provides this information free of charge to veterans.

There are several ways to register reunions or check reunion listings with the National Reunion Registry. Please contact the organization directly by writing to NRR/Reunions, PO Box 1718, Spartanburg, SC 29301, by faxing (864) 595-0813 or via e-mail at information@militaryusa.com. Due to the large number of reunions, NRR cannot accept phone requests for reunion information.

To register a reunion, you should include the complete name of the organization and branch of service with your request. The request

should also include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name and telephone number. Please also include a size estimate of the group.

Using the Internet is the quickest, most accurate way to access the reunion registry. You may check to see if your buddies are planning a reunion by visiting NRR's Web site at www.MilitaryUSA.com. To promote the best accuracy and fastest process when listing your reunion, complete the Reunion Registration Form available on the Web site.

Locating a Buddy

MilitaryUSA.com offers many services for veterans, including tips and techniques for locating current or former military members. *How To Locate Anyone Who Is or Has Been in the Military: Armed Forces Locator Guide* is a practical guide to help people locate service members. The publication can be purchased by contacting MIE Publishing, P.O. Box 1718, Spartanburg, SC 29301 or by faxing (864) 595-0813.

AIR FORCE

2nd Radio Sqdn Mobile, Biloxi, MS, 4/7-10, Johnny Carlson, (907) 229-7612, jdaska@aol.com; **3rd Strat Support Sqn**, Omaha, NE, 9/27-29, Bill Fulmer, (901) 755-2082, billjen@juno.com; **43rd Tact Depot Sqn**, Denver, 7/5-8, James Dutton, (303) 364-3910, jamesdutton@earthlink.net; **11th Bomb Grp**, Honolulu, 12/4-12, Allan Davis, (818) 299-5379, adavis@tulsakwik.com; **13th AF 42nd Bomb Grp**, Huntsville, AL, 5/23-25, John Balfour Jr., (410) 922-2840, micha33@compnet.net

31st Fr Officers Assn, Phoenix, 10/17-20, R. Eubank, (512) 282-1077, rockyeub@aol.com; **44th Inf Div Band**, Springfield, IL, 4/20, Stephen Hall, (217) 546-6747, bugletooter@juno.com; **67th Tact Recon Wing**, Nashville, TN, 4/25-29, Edward Rice, (615) 532-6304, mildred03@juno.com; **91st Strat Recon Wing**, Colorado Springs, CO, 4/18-21, Carl Dawalt, (937) 864-2407; **99th Bomb Grp**, Nashville, TN, April, Walt Johnson, (256) 519-6501, hcnhs425@aol.com

304th Fr Sqn 337th Fr Grp, St. Augustine, FL, 2/20-25, John Hatfield, (813) 839-0686; **307th Bomb Wing**, 8/17-47 KC-97, Ft. Worth, TX, 5/1-5, R. Boykin Jr., (817) 595-6057, rt92@gmail.com; **502nd Tact FSB**, San Antonio, 5/19-22, Keith Blake, (231) 544-5380, kblake@tirc.com; **50th Comm and Com Grp Tact Air Cmd**, Fort Shores, AL, 3/22-23, Mike Glass, (334) 947-5077, msglass@guilford.com; **507th Fr Grp Wing/438th Fr Interceptor Sqn**, Sault Ste. Marie, MI, 7/18-20, Joseph Sullivan, (317) 845-9311, jsullivan7319@aol.com

636th ACW Sqn, Concord, OR, 6/16-17, Bert Otto, (509) 249-2902, gwake98042@aol.com; **637th ACW Sqn**, Reno, NV, 7/21-24, Larry Clare, (595) 323-8219, claren@mediadone.net; **752nd ACW Sqn**, Traverse City, MI, 9/22-26, Lowell Woodworth, (940) 620-9635, kathylovel@earthlink.net; **1095th Spec Reporting Sqn**, Albuquerque, NM, 5/16-19, Jim May, (505) 299-5548, wp1095th@juno.com; **2727th Air Munitions Test Sqn**, Ogden, UT, 8/3-4, Tom Lloyd, (830) 438-2348, tomlloyd@yghd.com

Archlight/Youngster Crew, San Antonio, 2/21-24, Earl Flora, (402) 291-1099, etflora@aol.com; **EC-47 Assn**, Dayton, OH, 5/10-12, James Wheeler, (501) 754-3507, jc@ec47.com; **HQ 50th Trp Carrier Wing**, 441st Trp Carrier Grp, Indianapolis, 9/12-14, Frank Ehrman, frheman42@cs.com; **Navigator Class 52 09C**, Colorado Springs, CO, 8/28-31, Lowell Strong, (313) 396-3908, lmstrong@comcast.net; **DGS Class 59A**, San Antonio, 4/15, Don Weber, (352) 365-0031, jdandjwebster@cs.com

Pilot Class 43D, Dallas, 4/24-27, George Savage, (817) 244-5600, gisavage23@aol.com; **Pilot Class 527**, Winter Haven, FL, 9/10-14, Gene Rocque, (321) 777-0716, roquec@palmett.net; **Pilot Class 55B**, Lakeland, CA, 4/10-14, Claron Jorgensen, (415) 924-1345; **Pilot Class 56G**, Dayton, OH, 9/19-22, Porter Jones, (615) 876-0450, porterjones1@aol.com; **Pilot**

Class 58B, Las Vegas, 9/2-5, Harold Stein, hstein@msn.com; **Pleiku AB**, Pittsburgh, 12/9-16, Tom Rushnock, (724) 334-9445, trush@usa.net; **TAC Tankers**, Hampton, VA, 5/1-5, Nate Hill, (740) 653-3835, natehill@tactankers.com; **USAF Aggressors**, Las Vegas, 7/19-21, Gregory Wood, (702) 642-6827, gregory.wood@nellis.af.mil; **USAF Band**, Sacramento, CA, 8/7-11, Larry Lawrence, (707) 448-5852, lawlen1@ix.netcom.com

ARMY

1st Armd Div, Milwaukee, 8/22-25, Joseph Theriot, (270) 737-0901, 1stfarda@aol.com; **1st Inf Div Society**, New Orleans, 8/17-20, Ed Burke, (888) 324-4733, sc1std@aol.com; **6th Photo 548th Recon Tech Sqn** (Japan), Savannah, GA, 9/18-22, Charlie Wilson, (707) 927-6179, cwilson193@aol.com; **11th Abn Air Assault Div Mid-Atlantic Chapter**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 2/24-27, Herb Shapiro, (410) 827-6410, hishap@friend.ly.net; **11th Eng Bn**, San Diego, 7/17-13, Charles Lohan, (773) 585-9629, c11engbn@aol.com

17th Sig Bn, Williamsburg, VA, 1/18-21, Henri Vellmure, (954) 698-5981, vellmureh@worldnet.att.net; **24th Evac Hosp**, San Antonio, 5/2-5, Ken Bowen, (303) 236-7547, kmpbw@bwa.com; **25th MP Co**, Minneapolis, 9/6-7, Dennis Sobtzak, (218) 493-4529; **36th Div**, Austin, TX, 8/28-9/1, Leonard Wilkerson, (903) 489-1644, len36div@aol.com; **40th Inf Div 578th Eng C Bn**, Las Vegas, 4/9-12, Charlie Adams, (310) 540-2415, adamsc9@cs.com; **43rd Div Band**, Rocky Hill, CT, 6/14-16, Mario De Capua, (860) 956-1558, amm55@webtv.net

43rd Inf Div Veterans Assn, Ocoee, FL, 1/24-27, Al Lendzian Jr., (727) 868-7268; **54th Eng Co HM**, Lewiston, ME, 6/10-12, Brian Adams, (207) 375-6504, adams@hotmail.com; **57th Gen Hosp**, Baltimore, 6/28-30, Charles Fahler, (219) 595-7355, charlie91@webtv.net; **69th Armd Rgt Assn**, Seattle, WA, James Walker, (540) 774-1007, jt169@aol.com; **71st Assault Heli Co**, St. Louis, 5/2-5, Ron Seabolt, (972) 524-9033, rattler1@rattlers.org; **71st Army Band**, Tampa, FL, 4/4-8, Arvine Kindinger, (419) 562-4672, videou@cybertown.com

73rd Tank Bn 73rd Armd, Colorado Springs, CO, 4/25-28, Curtis Barker, (518) 643-2302; **82nd Cbt Eng WWII**, Valley Forge, PA, 4/24-28, Malcolm Goodale, (302) 945-4466, barbogoodale@juno.com; **88th Army Ground Forces Band**, Orlando, FL, 1/24-27, Allen Moratz, (863) 324-7921, almore@aol.com; **99th Inf Div Assn**, Pittsburgh, 7/15-21, Harry McCracken, (724) 863-6263, checkerboard@99div.com; **147th Assault Support Heli Co** "Hillicimmers", Williamsburg, VA, 5/6-19, Rodney Brown, (619) 689-4322, rbrown@cs.com

199th Light Inf Bde, Arlington, VA, 5/24-27, Peter Joannides, (703) 448-0199, brigade199@att.net; **323rd Med Bde**, Nashville, TN, 5/3-5, Ben Story, (870) 633-6402, bstory@ipa.net; **552nd Searchlight Bn**, Graceville, FL, 7/4-6, Steve Leal, (714) 829-0612; **424th FA Bn Korea**, Indianapolis, 8/22-24, Edward Bicknell, (207) 799-4760, eb424@aol.com; **502nd**

AAO Gun Bn, Greensburg, PA, 9/6-7, James Seibert, (264) 242-5153, group1@1st.net; **602nd Tank Dest Bn**, Branson, MO, 8/22-25, Raymond Young, (517) 332-8329, wmbicholas@yahoo.com; **658th Amph Tract Bn Assn**, Elk Grove, IL, 8/21-24, Elmer Hallen, (262) 626-2253, betel@juno.com; **728th MP Bn**, Springfield, MO, 9/20-22, Robert Jean, (417) 859-6518, jean18205@aol.com; **928th Eng Avn Grp**, Las Vegas, 4/2-4, Larry Tien, (708) 246-1718; **A Trp 2nd Sqn 17th Cav 101st Abn Div**, Nashville, TN, 6/4-9, Martin Kang, (717) 892-6677, karlg@sprintmail.com

Amph Army, Elk Grove, IL, 8/21-24, Elmer Hallen, (262) 626-2253, betel@juno.com; **Army Trans Assn Vietnam**, New Orleans, 7/10-14, Rick Phillips, (770) 426-1788, ataz2rp@attglobal.net; **Cbt Infantrymen Assn**, New Orleans, 10/10-13, Carl Lombard, (716) 663-1846, celombard@aol.com; **Ret Army Chaplains and Chaplains Assistants**, Ft. Jackson, SC, 5/14-16, John Scott, (863) 424-8013, jscpolo@aol.com; **Scorpion (Green) Observer/Controller Team Natl Trg Center**, Las Vegas, 3/7-10, Paul Taylor, (780) 380-4627, scop26@irwin.army.mil; **USS Platte**, AO 24, Platte City, MO, 5/16-19, Aaron Todd, (918) 227-1295, karcare1@swworld.net

COAST GUARD

USCGC Campbell, W 32/909, Charleston, SC, 5/15-18, James Kelly, (800) 848-1160, kelly@uconnect.net; **USS Rockaway**, AWP 29, Orlando, FL, 4/26-28, Chuck Harris, (602) 274-8980, to@infocad.com

JOINT

NROTC Miami Univ of Ohio, Oxford, OH, 4/5-7, nrotc@muhio.edu; **Pearl Harbor Survivors**, Honolulu, 12/3-8, Bill Eckel, (903) 683-4507; **River Rats Reunion**, Ft. Worth, TX, 5/23-25, Ken Cordier, (214) 942-3337, kwc-phantomflyer@worldnet.att.net; **US 19th Asiatic Fleet Comb Forces**, Houston, TX, 2/26-3/3, John Slaughter, captjack@juno.com; **USS Arizona**, BB 39, Hawaii, 12/3-10, Joe Campbell, (502) 529-7494, rucmpebl@aol.com; **USS Cambria**, APA 36, Charleston, SC, 4/25-5/1, David Stoll, (419) 738-3786, destoll@brighnt.net

Winterfest Veterans Rally, New Glarus, WI, 1/17-20, Ron Lewis, (608) 498-6411, pointman1@mail.tds.net; **Women Veterans**, Branson, MO, 9/22-29, Phillis Anesetti, (800) 304-5100, chasetv@flash.net

MARINES

1st Mar Div 9th Eng Bn FMF, Las Vegas, 6/13-16, Eric Kenney, (217) 728-7409, elk9neg@one-eleven.net; **32nd Vietnam Era Assn**, Branson, MO, 7/17-21, Debra Jenkins, (660) 727-2700, webste233@aol.com; **3rd Recon Bn**, Arlington, VA, 7/3-7, Len Raheno, (203) 407-4888, bestreality@net.net; **15th Spec Basic Class**, San Diego, 4/17-21, John Featherstone, (310) 833-2190; **HMR-262/HMR(L)-262/HMR-262**, Jacksonville, NC, 5/2-5, Roger Winegardner, (270) 966-0130, rwinegar@coinetworks.com; **Mar Corps League Natl Conv**, Harrisburg, PA,

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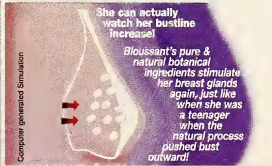
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8/3-10, Paul Hastings, (800) 747-1420, phast4321@aol.com; **Mar Skyhawkers**, Pensacola, FL, 4/22-24, Tom Elser, (714) 774-9345, tomlaser@aol.com; **Mar Corps Musicians Assn**, Camp Pendleton, CA, 4/24-27, Richard Oldenburg, (661) 821-1683, jazloc@sierrallink.com; **Marques Desert Mar Assn**, All Sqds 1942-1959 - AWS-1, CASD-6, CASD-7, AWS-8, AWS-12, AWS-13, VMF-121, VMF-123, VMF-124, VMF-132, VMSSB-133, VMSSB-134, VMSSB-142, VMSSB-144, VMSSB-151, VMF-211, VMF-213, VMF-214, VMF-218, VMF-221, VMF-225, VMSSB-236, VMSSB-243, VMO-251, VMD-255, VMSSB-321, VMSSB-322, VMSSB-341, VMO-351, VMF-451, VMF-452, VMSSB-454, VMF-472, VMF-511, VMF-512, VMF-513, VMF-514, MB-613, VMSSB-622, VMSSB-623, VMSSB-624, HQ Sqd, MASC-51, Station HQ Sqd, Base Personnel, MP Guard Det, Mar Base Del Aircraft 44, Washington, 5/15-18, Harold Knudsen, (218) 732-3978

PII 10 Parris Island, Ocean City, MD, September, Fred Finch, (717) 390-1778, eagleeye3@earthlink.net; **PI 209 Parris Island**, Beaufort, SC, April, Charles Marshall, (812) 923-5467, charmarismc@earthlink.net; **USMC Tankers Assn**, Oakland, CA, 8/28-9/1, Bob McDaniels, (360) 466-3080, mysgsbot@earthlink.net; **USMC Vietnam Hel Assn**, Pensacola, FL, 10/3-6, J. Barber, (817) 337-3239, pascovsmk@earthlink.net; **USS Homer Mar Det**, CV8/CV12, Oakland, CA, 8/28-9/1, Bob MacDaniels, (360) 466-3080, mysgsbot@earthlink.net; **VMF-222**, Las Vegas, 3/26-28, Tom Thompson, (903) 344-2496, coltopaz@webtv.net

NAVY

Acorn Assn, Kansas City, MO, 10/2-6, Cliff Hammer Sr., (909) 929-0229, hammerciff@earthlink.net; **AE Sailors Assn**, Tucson, AZ, 10/16-20, Ralph Gaul, (717) 436-6814, jmcclane2@aol.com; **All Seabees Reunion**, Port Hueneue, CA, 4/4-7, Ed Kloster, (626) 280-9495, mcb@earthlink.net; **AP Transport Assn**, Irving, TX, 6/6-9, Chuck Ulrich, (516) 747-7426, F3H "Demon" Drivers/Doctors Reunion, San Diego, 2/7-9, Ron Miller, (425) 823-0753, rcmillirk@netzero.net

MCB 4, Branson, MO, 8/22-25, Nick Marschhauser, (800) 313-3672, nick@mickstents.com; **MCB 22**, Corpus Christi, TX, 3/8-10, Gerardo Alvarez, (361) 992-9394; **MCB 133**, Hampton, VA, 2/1-3, Dennis Ruocco, (910) 842-1341, wrdennis@aol.com; **Navy Band Alumni**, Washington, 8/3-4, Don Stratton, (703) 960-3733, donstratton@prodigy.net; **Navy Hell Alumni Assn**, Cocoa Beach, FL, 4/16-20, Don Bellemare, (336) 282-3212, dbellemare@riadr.com

Navy Illustrator Draftsmen, San Diego, 5/14-16, Chuck Burnett, (619) 421-7546, chasburnett@home.com; **Okinaa Seabees 1945**, Clinton, MO, 6/11-13, Willis Rohr, (503) 364-5642, willisrohr146ncb@aol.com; **Patrol Sqdn 3**, Orange Park, FL, 12/5-7, Keith Harmon, (402) 792-2559, kwh82030@aol.com; **Patrol Sqdn 40**, San Diego, 10/8-12, Robert Foss, (515) 222-0112, robfoss@aol.com; **Pensacola Preflight Class of 1950**, Pensacola, FL, March, William Eck, (487) 599-8418, bleck@sisna.com

Underwater Swim School, Ronald, VA, 5/3-5, Don Stone, (561) 391-6727, stonefish@cs.com; **USN Armed Guard Vets**, Las Vegas, 5/5-9, Charles Lloyd, (919) 570-0909, cloyd@mcrr.com; **USN Cruiser Sailors Assn**, Annapolis, MD, 4/28-5/3, Edward August, (506) 252-3524, usnca@aol.com; **USS Albemarle**, AV 9, Niagara Falls, NY, 5/19-21, Ron Reid, (800) 267-2825, ronaid.reid@snet.net; **USS Amphion**, AR 13, San Antonio, 5/16-19, Henry Miller, (919) 677-9554, hmillers@ncrr.com

USS Amsterdam, CL 101, Hershey, PA, 9/13-16, Bob Tripp, (607) 324-4787; **USS Atika**, AGB 3, Boston, April, John Green, (617) 524-3990, ussatika@yahoo.com; **USS Audrain**, APA 59, Dayton, OH, 5/2-4, Forrest Lanham, (217) 748-

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Anyone who served aboard the USS *Tilefish*, USS *Diodon*, USS *Nereus* or USS *Bugara* submarines in Korea, New London, Conn., or California between November 1948 and June 1952, contact Ruth Trudell, 519 S. Main St., Oconto Falls, WI 54154 or call (920) 846-3579.

Anyone who served with HQ or HQ Btry 3rd Armd
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Anyone who served with Plt 442, 9th Recruit Bn at Parris Island Boot Camp between June and August 1943, contact Jerome P. Steigmann, 15422 North 2nd Way, Phoenix, AZ 85022, call

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Anyone who served aboard USS Somersworth, EPCER 849, between July 1956 and September 1957, contact Ted Frutchey, 1 Island Acres, Lake Ariel, PA 18436, call (570) 689-9927 or e-mail patfru544@cs.com.

Anyone who served with Logistic Support Co 77
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Anyone who served with JAPO or JUSMAG in Spain or France between 1953 and 1969, the 16th AF SAC in Spain between 1956 and 1966 or the 16th AF SAC in Morocco in the 1950s, contact Toya Albert, 57 Memorial Place, Manhasset, NY 11030, call (515) 365-4824 or

Anyone who underwent basic training with Flt 2434 Sqd 3715 at Lackland AFB in November 1951, contact Pat O'Brient at 303 Patton St., Morgantown, NC 28655, call (828) 437-5137 or e-mail pat-lackie@msn.com.

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Anyone who served with the Korean Military Advisory Grp at Taegu or with Det G at the Korean Army Tng Center near Kwanju between 1954 and 1955, contact Neil Kirwan, 2 Rende Drive, Beacon, NY 12508 or call (845) 831-4541.

Anyone who served with the 1873rd Eng Avn Bn, B Co during the Asiatic-Pacific campaigns during WWII, contact Verdree Lockhart, 2964 Peek Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30318 or call (404) 794-5208.

Anyone who served with G-2 EUCOM between 1946 and 1949, contact Mike Beagan, 6 Harwood Lane, Claremont, NH 03743 or Ralph Neeley at neelejdelrav@cs.com

Anyone who served with Carrier Aircraft Serv Unit 15 on Guadalcanal and Efate during WWII, contact Wendell Hubbs, 2404 Idlewood Road,

Jefferson City, MO 65109, call (573) 635-1579 or e-mail whubb@mil.altraweb.net.

Anyone who went through basic training with Flight 331, Sgdn 3764 at Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, Texas, between March and May 1949, contact James Westover, 14770 Kelloway Court, Spring Lake, MI 49456, call (616) 844-1631 or e-mail msunom133@aol.com.

Anyone who served aboard USS LST 884 or with L Co, 3rd Bn, 2nd Mar in April 1945, contact Charles W. Foster, 405 W. Green St., Newman, IL 61942.

Anyone who served aboard APL-30 and MBP-1 at Sasebo, Japan, and Subic Bay, Philippines, between 1956 and 1957, contact Andy Vitulla, 724 Providence Drive, Pittsburg, PA 15239 or call (412) 793-9603.

Anyone who served with the 807th Tact Cont Sgdn in Kaiserslautern (Kleberkasern) at Landstuhl AFB, Germany, between 1954 and 1957, contact Enrico Casaleto, 36 Marianna Road, Salem, NH 03079 or call (603) 898-1150.

Anyone who served with COMUTRON or COMUTWINGS, Pacific Fleet, at Ford Island, Hawaii, between 1945 and 1948, contact Bill Bedwell, R.R. 3, Oakland City, IN 47660 or call (812) 795-2224.

Anyone who served with Color Co 391 at Great Lakes, Ill., in December 1973, contact Rich Rino, P.O. Box 40405, San Diego, CA 92164 or call (619) 640-6996.

Anyone who attended QM Refrigeration School, Class 9C, in Bloomington, Ill., in August 1943, contact Bill Lind, 3671 W. Brule Lake Road, Iron River, MI 49935 or e-mail blmayor@webtv.net.

Anyone who served with Co 4251, 4th Rgt at the Naval Training Center in Bainbridge, Md., between July and October 1945 or with Electronics Test at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Patuxent River, Md., between October 1945 and July 1948, contact Marvin T. Mastin, 809 E. Whipoorwill, Aiken, SC 29803, call (803) 648-5508 or e-mail psm7240@aol.com.

Anyone who served with HQ Lowry Field Air

Reserve Det, 138th AAF Base Unit (Reserve Tng) at Denver between 1946 and 1949, contact Brewster D. Blind, 4321 Avenida Palermo #A, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 or call (520) 458-8086.

Any Navy Reservist who trained aboard a DMV out of Charleston, S.C., stationed in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Fourth of July weekend 1949, contact Lester Atkins, 2399 Powell St., Southside, AL 35907 or call (256) 442-2702.

Anyone who served with Fox Co, 2nd Bn, 1st Mar in Korea between 1950 and 1953, contact A.B. McFarlane, 577 Pine Ave., Saddle Brook, NJ 07663 or call (201) 791-9265.

Anyone who served aboard the USS *Indianapolis*, CA 35, contact Fred Sieracki, 70 Orchard St., Chicopee, MA 01013 or call (413) 592-9032.

Anyone who served at Big Delta Army Base in Alaska between 1942 and 1943, contact Alton Kay, 2521 Ryan Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76110.

Anyone who served with the 477th QM Truck Rgt, A, B, C, D or E Cos, Northwest Serv Cmn, along the Alaskan Highway, contact Oscar Rosin, 4406 Rossin Road, De Pere, WI 54115 or call (920) 532-4986.

Anyone who served aboard the USS *Gen. J.C. Breckenridge*, TAP 176, between 1957 and 1959, contact Gerald Burkland, 1452 E 700 N Road, Paxton, IL 60957 or e-mail gbjork@illcom.net.

Anyone who served with S Div at Subic Bay, Philippines, between January 1952 and January 1955, contact Ed Maloney at egmpat@cs.com.

Anyone who served with Hq Btry, 42nd FA at Gellhausen, Germany, between 1952 and 1954, contact Kent Eads, 68386 Vista Road, White Pigeon, MI 49099, call (616) 483-7747 or keads@email.com.

Anyone who served with the 2nd Field Hosp in the Philippines and Hiroshima between 1944 and December 1945, contact Bob Marsicano, 4902 Mt. Affian Drive, San Diego, CA 92111 or e-mail rmarsicano@aol.com.

Anyone who served with S Div at Subic Bay Naval Base, Philippines, between January 1952 and January 1955, contact Ed Maloney at

egmpat@cs.com.

Anyone who served with the 424th Sig Co Avn, 10th AF, U.S. Army at Calcutta, India, between December 1943 and December 1944, contact Jerry Schons, 2535 25th St. SW #102, Fargo, ND 58103, call (701) 241-9280 or e-mail schonsj@cs.com.

TAPS

Roy W. Green, Dept. of Maryland, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 1976-1977, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1985-1990, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Memb. 1990-2001 at Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1993-1994 and 1999-2001.

George B. Pat Joyner, Dept. of Tennessee, Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmt. Memb. 1954-1961, Dept. Cmdr. 1963-1964 and Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1968-1969.

James A. Little, Dept. of Oregon, Nat'l Memb. and Post Active. Cmt. Memb. 1964-1965 and 1970-1972, Nat'l Law and Order Cmt. Memb. 1972-1973, Dept. Cmdr. 1990-1991 and Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1991-1996.

Leo Maynard, Dept. of Iowa, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmt. Memb. 1969-1970, Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmt. Memb. 1970-1971, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1972-1974, Nat'l Trophies Awards and Ceremonials Cmt. Memb. 1974-1977, Dept. Cmdr. 1977-1978, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmt. Memb. 1983-1987 and 1996-1997, Nat'l Exec. Cmt. Memb. 1987-1991, Nat'l Veterans Affairs and Rehab. Cmsn. Liaison Cmt. Memb. 1987-1988 and 1990-1991, Nat'l Veterans Affairs and Rehab. Regional Vice Chmn. 1995-1996, Nat'l Veterans Affairs and Rehab. Regional Chmn. 1996-1997, Nat'l Veterans Affairs and Rehab. Region 6 Memb. 1994-2000, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1999-2001 and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2000-2001.

Marlin T. Monroe, Dept. of New Jersey, Nat'l Memb. and Post Active. Cmt. Memb. 1975-1976 and 1977-1979, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1978-1980 and Dept. Cmdr. 1980-1981.

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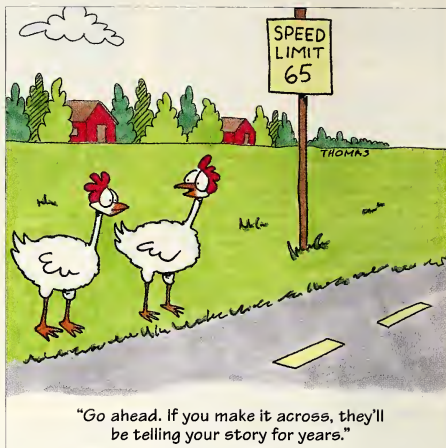
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